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EVM tampered only when you lose: SC bins paper ballot plea

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea seeking to revert to paper ballot voting in elections in the country, saying allegations of tampering with electronic voting machines (EVMs) raked up only when people lose polls.

"What happens is, when you win the election, EVMs are not tampered with. When you lose the election, EVMs are tampered (with)," remarked a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and PB Varale.

Apart from ballot paper voting, the plea sought several directions, including a directive to the Election Commission to disqualify candidates for a minimum of five years if found guilty of distributing money, liquor or other material inducement to the voters during polls.

When petitioner-in-person KA Paul said he filed the PIL, the bench said, "You have interesting PILs. How do you get these brilliant ideas?"

The petitioner said he is the president of an organisation which has rescued over three lakh orphans and 40 lakh widows. "Why are you getting into this political arena? Your area of work is very different," the bench said.

When Paul said there was corruption, and the Election Commission announced in June 2024 that they seized Rs 9,000 crore, the bench asked, "But how does that make your relief which you are claiming here relevant? If you shift back to physical ballot, will there be no corruption?"

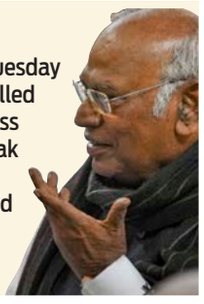
Paul said TDP chief and current chief minister of Andhra Pradesh N Chandrababu Naidu and former state chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had claimed EVMs could be tampered with.

"When Chandrababu Naidu lost, he said EVMs can be tampered with. Now this time, Jagan Mohan Reddy lost, and he said EVMs can be tampered with," the bench said. *—PTI*

KHARGE BATS FOR BALLOT PAPER

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday demanded the return of ballot paper and called for a concerted campaign to create awareness about it. Speaking at the Samvidhan Rakshak Abhiyaan function at Talkatora stadium, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was afraid that all sections of society would demand their share if he allowed a caste census.



K'taka to start single window system

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

Karnataka's Minister for Large and Medium Industries, MB Patil, announced a December deadline for all relevant departments to adopt a newly developed Single Window System software scheduled for launch in January 2025, which aims to simplify and expedite current complex procedures related to project approvals and industrial plot allotments.

Speaking at a meeting held at Vidhana Soudha, Patil noted the cumbersome and multi-staged processes often lead to delays in approvals. Developed by Microsoft, the new system is designed to create a seamless experience for investors by eliminating the need to approach multiple departments. *—PTI*

ISKCON monk's arrest: B'desh lawyer dead as cops, Hindus clash

India condemns denial of bail to monk, urges B'desh to ensure Hindus' safety

DHAKA, 26 NOV

A Bangladeshi court on Tuesday denied bail to prominent Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, arrested on sedition charges, and sent him to prison, triggering protests by Hindus in various locations, including the capital Dhaka and the port city of Chattogram.

During the clashes between police and Hindus, a public prosecutor identified as Saiful Islam Alif, was killed and 27 were injured. An eyewitness claimed that the lawyer was beaten up by protesters.

Das was also a member of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), which recently expelled him. Bangladesh police on Monday arrested Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, a leader of the Hindu group Sammilita Sanatani Jote, from the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area in Dhaka while travelling to Chattogram. He was then brought to Chattogram.

Immediately after the court's order at around noon, Das' followers started to protest, disrupting the movement of the prison van carrying him. Protesters were shouting slogans demanding his release, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

Police and members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) fired sound grenades and charged batons at the protesters to clear the way of the van. The van was finally able to leave the court premises at around 3pm, the report said.

Hundreds of people from the Hindu community on Monday took to the streets at the Cheragi Pahar intersection in Chattogram, demanding his immediate release. Similarly, the Hindu community members in Dhaka blocked the Shahbagh intersection, protesting the arrest.

A case was filed against Das and 18 others on 30 October at Chattogram's Kotwali Police Station leader on the complaint of a leader of former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which accused them of disrespecting the national flag in the city's Laldighi Maidan during a rally of the Hindus on 25 October.

Meanwhile, India on Tuesday noted with "deep concern" the arrest and denial of bail to Das, and urged the Bangladeshi authorities to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities. *—PTI*

Deceased lawyer Saiful Islam Ali & Hindu monk Krishna Das Prabhu; Supporters of Das surround the van carrying him after he was denied bail in Chattogram, Bangladesh *PHOTO: PTI*

SHINDE RESIGNS, REMAINS AS CARETAKER CM

MUMBAI, 26 NOV

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde resigned on Tuesday in a constitutional obligation, paving the way for appointing a new government amidst intense negotiations within the Mahayuti alliance on who would take the top post - BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis or Shinde - the Shiv Sena head.

Shinde, accompanied by Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, the two deputy chief ministers in the previous government, met with Governor CP Radhakrishnan, who asked the Shiv Sena leader to remain in a caretaker capacity until a new Chief Minister is sworn in.

The urgency of the situation arose because the outgoing assembly's term ended on Tuesday. The Mahayuti coalition performed impressively in the recent elections, winning 230 out of 288 seats.

The BJP alone secured 132 seats, making Fadnavis the favourite for the CM's post, followed by Shinde's faction of the Shiv Sena with 57 seats. *—PTI*

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'US may drop Adani charges after Trump's takeover'

NEW YORK, 26 NOV

There remains a possibility that the USD 265 million bribery case against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani can be withdrawn if the charges against him are deemed "unworthy or defective" after Donald Trump takes over as the US President, a prominent Indian-American attorney has said. Attorney Ravi Batra said that while every new president has a new team, President-elect Trump as the 47th President of the US, who is forgoing FBI-checks for his Cabinet, will "neuter any prosecution that's not based in good faith, but is what he has powerfully termed "lawfare". "Essentially, that means the law is being applied selectively to target one's opponents, which naturally denies the target of "equal protection of the law" guaranteed by our Federal constitution," Batra said. *—PTI*

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DKS hints at Cabinet reshuffle

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has suggested that a cabinet reshuffle may be imminent, as he indicated that certain ministers have received a "message" regarding their tenure. Speaking at a Congress event, Shivakumar referenced the fixed two-year term for panchayat chairpersons, alluding to a similar message communicated to some ministers.

Although he refrained from detailing specific changes, his comments have sparked speculation about an impending reshuffle within the cabinet. Shivak umar stated, "We have given that message to some ministers too. I don't want to discuss it now..."

He is set to meet with the Congress party's high command in Delhi later this week, further fuelling discussions about potential changes. When questioned regarding the performance review of ministers, he suggested that enquiries should be directed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah or the AICC general secretary.

There has been a growing call from some MLAs, eager for ministerial positions, to be included in the cabinet. Notably, several members have openly expressed their aspirations to take on ministerial roles.

Shivakumar's remarks hint at a political shift in Karnataka, as speculation grows regarding the future composition of the state government. *—PTI*

DK Shivakumar *PHOTO: PTI*

Bishnoi attacks rapper Badshah's club in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH, 26 NOV

Two low-intensity explosions occurred outside as many bar-cum-lounges, one of them owned by rapper Badshah, in the Sector 26 area of Chandigarh early Tuesday. No casualties were reported.

The explosions were allegedly carried out by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang after their attempts to extort money failed.

According to a Facebook post purportedly written by Goldy Brar, a Canada-based terrorist linked to Lawrence Bishnoi, he and another member of the gang, Rohit Godara, were responsible for the blasts outside Seville Bar and Lounge and De'Orra Club in Chandigarh on Monday night.

Seville Bar and Lounge is owned by singer Badshah and De'Orra Club is run by the local businessmen. In CCTV footage, an unidentified person was seen throwing something towards the lounge. *—PTI*

Oppn demands debate on Constitution in both Houses

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

The opposition leaders in India are pushing for a parliamentary debate on the Constitution, following the nation's 75th anniversary of its adoption and recent national tensions. Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, alongside Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has formally requested a two-day discussion on this significant matter.

Kharge emphasised the need for time to address both the strengths of the Constitution and pressing concerns in contemporary society. He expressed anticipation for a government response regarding their request. Senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh raised critical questions about the Preamble's implementation, asking, "Are people getting justice and liberty? Is there freedom of expression? Where is fraternity?" Singh challenged the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwaas, Sabka Prayaas,' insisting that actions must align with rhetoric.

The demand for a debate follows violent incidents in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, during a court-mandated survey of a mosque, raising concerns about national unity. The Samajwadi Party boycotted Constitution Day celebrations, as party chief Akhilesh Yadav stated that celebrating at a time of loss was inappropriate. *—PTI*

>>>More on Pages 2, 3 & 5

Students take an oath administered by CM Siddaramaiah during Constitution Day in Bengaluru on Tuesday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

World's oldest man dies in England at 112

LONDON, 26 NOV

For nearly nine months, John Alfred Tinniswood held the title of world's oldest man, marking his 112th birthday during his reign. Tinniswood, a retired accountant and great-grandfather, died in a care home in northwest England near Liverpool. He attributed his longevity to "pure luck" and believed life is a choice between long and short lives. Moderation is key to a healthy life, according to the 111-year-old British record holder, Sir John Tinniswood. Born a few months after the sinking of the Titanic, Tinniswood lived through two world wars and served in the British Army Pay Corps. *—PTI*

STAYS WITH BODY FOR 1 DAY

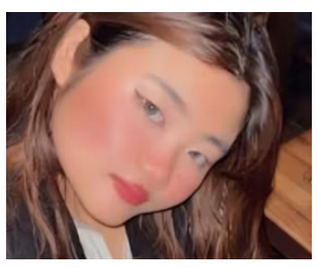
Man stabs girlfriend to death in Indiranagar

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

A 22-year-old woman from Assam was found murdered in a service apartment in Indiranagar on Tuesday, police said. Her boyfriend, who is on the run, allegedly stabbed her multiple times in the chest after a spat.

The decomposed body of vlogger Maya Gogoi was found in the Royal Livings apartment that she booked with her boyfriend Aarav Anay, hailing from Kerala's Kannur, on 23 November.

Gogoi, a native of Guwahati, had shifted to Bengaluru a few months ago. She reportedly acquired a job at a private firm in HSR Layout following which she rented a house nearby.



Suspect Aarav Anay and victim Maya Gogoi *PHOTO: SALAR*

As per the police, Gogoi walked out of the apartment on Tuesday.

"Maya had not been seen since Monday which means the murder might have taken place on Monday and the accused must have spent an entire day in the apartment with the corpse after the murder," said an official. CCTV footage and investigations suggest Aarav stayed in the apartment after the murder, smoking a cigarette near the victim's body.

The police suspect that Aarav might have been contemplating dismembering the body but later abandoned the plan and fled from the apartment after locking the door on Tuesday

It is suspected that Aarav and Maya had been in a troubled relationship and had decided to part ways. They had booked the room to discuss and sort out their dispute.

On Monday, they entered into a violent argument following which Aarav stabbed Maya.

"The body was found by a staff member who went to the room to take breakfast orders. As there was no response, the staff opened the room and found the woman dead," added the official.

The police have formed a team to capture the suspect. *—Salar News*

Cong MLA seeks rollback on guarantees, irks DKS

BENGALURU/ VIJAYANAGARA, 26 NOV

Karnataka Congress MLA HR Gaviyappa on Tuesday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to drop some poll guarantees, citing lack of funds, which drew sharp response from Deputy CM DK Shivakumar.

"Guarantee schemes have caused difficulty in providing houses to poor. We urge the Chief Minister to drop two or three schemes that are not necessary. Let us see what the Chief Minister says," Gaviyappa said at a public meeting in Vijayanagara, adding that he would stand by whatever decision the Chief Minister took.

The Vijayanagara MLA said the CM raised Rs 40,000 crore this year keeping development in mind.

However, the legislator's statement irked Shivakumar. "This is Congress. I am going to issue him a show-cause notice. He can't do that. No question of closing any guarantee we have committed to the people of Karnataka. No one can raise their voice (against the guarantees)," said the Deputy CM, who is also the Congress state president.

Shivakumar said a Congress MLA cannot speak against his government's guarantees. Those who are ineligible will not get the benefit. Same policy has been adopted in the recent revision of BPL ration cards, he said. The Karnataka government has decided to remove the government employees and income tax payers from the list of BPL families according to Central government norms. *—PTI*

Newborn abducted from Kalaburagi hospital

KALABURAGI, 26 NOV

A newborn baby boy was allegedly kidnapped from Kalaburagi district hospital by two women disguised as hospital staff, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred at around 3pm on Monday, they said. CCTV footage from the hospital premises shows the two women wandering around the campus. Additional footage captures them fleeing the hospital with the infant. Police said that the suspects, dressed in white doctor's aprons and with their faces partially covered, posed as hospital staff."They approached the mother, claiming the baby needed tests, and then fled with the infant," police added. —*PTI*

BMTC adds 20 mins for Majestic to Uttarahalli drivers

BENGALURU 26 NOV

Bus drivers on the Majestic-Uttarahalli route can now breathe a sigh of relief as the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has revised their schedules, adding an additional 20 minutes to their trips. Previously, drivers were required to complete the journey in 55 minutes, a target that had become increasingly difficult due to the City's growing traffic congestion. The revised timetable now allots 1 hour and 15 minutes for the route, addressing long-standing concerns raised by drivers who had been struggling to meet tight deadlines. The move comes as part of the Corporation's efforts to ensure safer and more efficient operations amidst Bengaluru's worsening traffic challenges. —*Salar News*

2 held in City after arms trafficking racket busted

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

Hulimavu police have busted an inter-state arms trafficking operation, arresting two men who were caught waiting for customers with illegal firearms. On the night of 25 November, a police patrol spotted the duo with a suspicious package near Yelenahalli on Koppa-Begur Road, close to the NICE Road bridge. Upon their approach, the suspects attempted to flee but were intercepted. Authorities seized two country-made pistols, four rounds of ammunition, and a two-wheeler from the pair. During interrogation, police discovered that the men, hailing from Bihar, had sourced the weapons from a contact in their hometown with the intention of selling them in Bengaluru. The duo has been charged under the Arms Act of 1959 and remains in custody as probe into their trafficking network continue.—*Salar News*

Cancer claims: Areca body wants WHO branch probed

MANGALURU, 26 NOV

The Central Areca Nuts and Cocoa Marketing Processing Cooperative Ltd (CAMPCO) on Tuesday urged Union Health Minister JP Nadda to take action against alleged data manipulation by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a body under the WHO, which classified areca nuts as "carcinogenic". CAMPCO claimed that the studies cited by the World Health Organisation were primarily focused on tobacco but were misrepresented to include areca nuts with manipulated data. The cooperative stated that this classification has adversely impacted the livelihoods of lakhs of farmers dependent on the crop.Seeking government intervention, CAMPCO has called for a review of the classification and advanced research by institutions such as AIIMS, New Delhi, and IISc, Bengaluru. "Areca nut sustains millions of farmers. Misclassifications based on distorted evidence must be corrected," said CAMPCO president A Kishore Kumar Kodgi. —*PTI*

Law needed to take Muslims' voting powers: Vokkaliga Seer

He says everyone should fight against injustice over Waqf row

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

Urging everyone to unite to protect farmers and their land, Vishwa Vokkaliga Mahasamastana Mutt seer Kumar Chandrashekaranatha Swamiji in the wake of Waqf properties row, on Tuesday said a law should be brought in where Muslims community don't have the voting power.

Stating that it should be ensured there is no Waqf board, he said someone taking away someone else's land is not "Dharma".

"Everyone should fight against injustice being caused to farmers...it is said that the Waqf board can claim anyone's land. It is a big injustice...someone taking away someone else's land is not Dharma... So, everyone should fight to ensure that farmers' land remains with them," the seer said.

Vishwa Vokkaliga Mahasamastana Mutt seer Kumara Chandra shekaranatha Swamiji *PHOTO: X*

Addressing the protest meeting by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh here, he said, farmers are the "Annadatas" -- they are ones who produce food. "So they should be saved and nurtured, and it should be ensured that no one takes away their land and assets."

"Everyone should think and see to it that the Waqf board itself is not there....as politicians do things for the sake of votes. A law should be brought in where Muslims community don't have the voting power....it should certainly be done. In Pakistan, they have done it, others don't have power to vote there," he claimed.

"Similarly, even in India, if we ensure that they (Muslims) don't have a right to vote, then they will stay to themselves, and everyone can remain peacefully," he added.

Following allegations by a section of farmers and others in certain parts of Karnataka that their lands were marked as Waqf properties, there have been protests by various farmers groups, organisations, and opposition BJP. —*PTI*

DyCM DK Shivakumar and CM Siddaramaiah during Constitution Day in Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

Those against Constitution want to change it: CM

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said those against the Constitution are speaking of changing it, while he and his party are fighting to safeguard it.

He was speaking on the sidelines of an event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution.

"Those who are against the Constitution, they are telling it (about changing the Constitution). Recently Swamiji of the Pejawar Mutt in Udupi had also spoken about the need for amending the Constitution," Siddaramiah said.

He said, "About 106 amendments have been made to the Constitution. We are celebrating 75 years (of adopting the constitution). Probably India's is 2the longest (written) Constitution in the whole world."

Noting that it has been 75 years since the country adopted its Constitution, he said whether it is central or the state government or the local bodies, they have to function in accordance with the Constitution and uphold its principles.

Pointing out that his government has made it compulsory for students to read the preamble of the Constitution at schools and colleges, he said, "Every child should understand the preamble of the Constitution, its principles, and should function according to it." Siddaramaiah said some people were getting heartburns after he became chief minister for the second time.

The Chief Minsiter said he has no reason to bow down so long as he has public support.

"I will not be scared as you are with me. I have said this on several occasions that so long as I have the blessings of people, I won't yield," Siddaramaiah said.

He also took a potshot at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) calling the outfit anti-constitution. —*PTI*

MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

Two leopards captured in City following attack on woman

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

A week after a 52-year-old woman was tragically killed by a leopard near Shivagange Hills in Nelamangala taluk, local forest officials have captured two leopards from Kambalu Gollarahatti village. The captured animals include a seven-year-old male, apprehended on Monday, and a nine-year-old female, caught the following day.

Officials have collected blood and hair samples from both leopards, which will be sent to the National Centre for Biological Sciences for DNA analysis. This process aims to ascertain whether either of the captured leopards was involved in the fatal attack on the victim, identified as Kariamma. She was killed on 17 November while cutting grass in an agricultural field, allegedly being dragged into the forest by a leopard, which mauled her to death and consumed parts of her body.

The Forest Department has set up large cages and eight pairs of camera traps in the vicinity to monitor the wildlife. The camera traps have recorded footprints of two male leopards and one female, assisting officials in successfully capturing the latter two. Efforts are ongoing to locate a third male leopard, while measures are being taken to ensure the safety of local residents during challenging period. —*Salar News*

BJP LEADER ACCUSES BBMP OF ₹46,300 CR SCAM

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

NR Ramesh, President of the Karnataka Anti-Corruption Forum and a senior BJP leader, filed a formal complaint with Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleging a misuse of Rs 46,300 crore in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) released over the past decade for road development in Bengaluru.

In his complaint, Ramesh accused nine individuals, including serving and retired IAS officers as well as contractors. "Between 2013 and 2023-24, a Rs 46,300 crore was allocated for road development works across 198 wards in Bengaluru. However, despite such funding, the condition of roads in the city remains deplorable. Over 25,000 potholes are reported on the arterial roads alone," Ramesh said. —*Salar News*

4 arrested for 'negligent' disposal of Dalit's corpse

MANGALURU, 26 NOV

Four people have been arrested for allegedly disposing of a Dalit labourer's body negligently in Puttur taluk of Dakshina Kannada district, police said on Tuesday.

The deceased, Shivappa, 70, a resident of Keremoole near Sullia, worked as an assistant mason at Tauro Cement Fabrication Unit in Salmara village. He reportedly collapsed and died during work hours on 16 November .

Instead of providing medical assistance or notifying his family, the factory owner, Henry Tauro, allegedly loaded Shivappa's body onto a pickup truck and dumped it near his home, placing it on wooden logs by the roadside, according to police.

The incident sparked outrage among Dalit organisations in Puttur, including the Adi Dravida Samaja Seva Sangha, who demanded a thorough investigation.

Protests over delays in apprehending the accused intensified public pressure, leading to the arrests of Tauro, his son Kiran, their assistant Prakash, and a mason named Stany.

Shivappa, allegedly unresponsive, was brought home by the accused on 16 November, who was rushed to the hospital but was declared dead upon arrival.

Police are investigating a case registered under the Prevention of Atrocities Against Dalits Act to determine the cause of death and to investigate allegations of mishandling the victim's body. —*PTI*

Protests over delays in apprehending the accused intensified public pressure leading to the arrests of the accused *PHOTO: X*

HAL AIRPORT TO BE REVAMPED FOR CIVILIANS' USE

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

Bengaluru's HAL airport, which halted commercial operations in 2008, is set for a major upgrade that aims to accommodate up to 4 million civilians annually by 2047s. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) chairman has approved a comprehensive master plan designed to revitalise the facility, which currently handles approximately 12 small aircraft each day, including those for defence, VIPs, and private operations.

The airport features a single runway, 3,306m long, which operates 24/7 and includes 30 aircraft parking spots. Upcoming enhancements include the construction of a six-storey multi-level car park with capacity for 500 vehicles and a planned expansion of the access road in front of the terminal from two to four lanes, significantly improving accessibility and traffic flow.

While the runway will remain unchanged, the exclusivity agreement with Kempegowda International Airport will lapse in 2033, paving the way for renewed civilian operations.

Given Bengaluru's rapid growth, the revamped HAL Airport is poised to play a crucial role in the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAAN). —*Salar News*

BSY appeals to MLA Yatnal's group to work unitedly amid rift

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

In the wake of a parallel agitation led by Karnataka BJP leaders, including MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, former chief minister BS Yediyurappa has urged party members to put aside their differences and unify efforts to strengthen the party. Yediyurappa attributed the dissent to "self-conceit" among the dissenting leaders and called for collective responsibility following the party's underwhelming performance in recent Assembly byelections in Sandur, Shiggaon, and Channapatna.

The veteran politician emphasized that every party member, including state president BY Vijayendra, should acknowledge the defeat and reflect on the shortcomings that led to it. "We accept that we faced a setback. Discussions regarding shortcomings are important, and measures should be taken to prevent similar outcomes in the future," Yediyurappa stated.

He noted that despite Vijayendra's efforts to engage Yatnal and his supporters in collaborative protests regarding the Waqf issue, the leaders opted for separate demonstrations, indicating internal discord within the party ranks. Yatnal and other BJP MLAs, such as Ramesh Jarkiholi and BP Harish, have publicly criticised Vijayendra, accusing him of "adjustment politics" with the ruling Congress party.

Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa urged party members including BY Vijayendra and Yatnal to put aside their differences *PHOTOS: X*

- He noted that despite Vijayendra's efforts to engage Yatnal and his supporters in collaborative protests regarding the Waqf

While facing questions regarding the current leadership and potential escalations to the party's high command, Yediyurappa remarked that the central leadership was cognizant of the situation.

"Let's see what they will do," he added, emphasising the need for unity in advancing the BJP's agendas in Karnataka. —*PTI*

NEW YEAR SPECIAL

Cops to run drug tests after accidents

PHOTO: X

HAMEED ASHRAF
BENGALURU, 26 NOV

Ahead of the New Year celebrations, Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) is cracking the whip on drugged driving. Until now, errant riders and drivers were checked and booked for drunk driving. Now, police will test those performing wheelies, drag races and those involved in road accidents for drug abuse, besides alcohol.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda told Salar News on Tuesday that this measure is to deter substance abuse and reckless driving.

A trained team will assist the cops and collect the samples of suspects. The cops will then register his name and will collect his information before letting him/her go. The next working day, cops will summon the suspects and take appropriate action against them.

He said that high-risk areas, including MG Road, Brigade Road, and Church Street, will see heightened surveillance, with over 1,200 CCTV cameras being deployed to monitor traffic and ensure safety during the New Year celebrations. Additionally, the police have activated anti-narcotics squads to conduct targeted raids at key supply hubs and transit points across Bengaluru.

"Anti-narcotics squads are conducting raids in various parts of the city, focusing on the supply chain and distribution points," Dayananda said, urging the public to report any suspicious activity. He added that awareness campaigns are being ramped up to educate citizens about the legal and social consequences of drug use.

In a recent operation, Central Crime Branch (CCB) Anti-Narcotics Squad arrested two individuals involved in drug peddling. One of the suspects, a native of Odisha, was found with 10.37 kg of ganja, worth approximately Rs 7.5 lakh, stored in a shed near an apartment in Kariyammana Agrahara. Another individual, from West Bengal, was arrested in Sampigehalli with 4 kg of ganja, which he had been sourcing from his contacts in his home state. —*Salar News*

HC adjourns MUDA scam hearing on case transfer

BENGALURU, 26 NOV

The Karnataka High Court has postponed until 10 December the hearing on a request to transfer the investigation of the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment scam to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The plea, submitted by activist Snehamayi Krishna, expresses concerns regarding the credibility of the Lokayukta's inquiry into the issue.

Krishna stated that he lacks faith in the Lokayukta police and believes the case should be reassigned to the CBI for impartiality.

Allegations in the MUDA case suggest that compensatory plots were allocated to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife in a prime Mysuru location, which boasts a higher property value than the land she purportedly 'exchanged' with MUDA.

The MUDA's contentious scheme involved allotting 50 per cent of developed land back to landowners in return for their undeveloped land, in this instance, concerning 3.16 acres at survey number 464 in Kasare village. It has been argued that Parvathi Siddaramaiah lacks legal title to this land. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Bypolls to 6 vacant RS seats in 4 states on 20 Dec

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

The Election Commission announced on Tuesday that Bypolls to six vacancies in Rajya Sabha across four states will be held on 20 December. Three vacancies were created in Andhra Pradesh when YSRCP members Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi, Beedha Masthan Rao Yadav, and Ryaga Krishnaiah quit their membership in August. The terms of Yadav and Krishnaiah as Rajya Sabha members were to end on 21 June, 2028, while Mopidevi was to retire on 21 June 2026. A vacancy occurred in Odisha when Sujeet Kumar quit his seat following which he was expelled by the Biju Janata Dal. His term was to end on 2 April, 2026. Jawhar Sircar of the TMC had resigned in April following the rape-murder of a doctor in Kolkata, creating a vacancy. *—PTI*

Parl committee on Waqf bill to meet today

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

The parliamentary committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill is expected to meet on Wednesday, and its members are likely to move their own amendments to the proposed law, sources said. The committee will discuss the amendments and adopt or negate them depending on the support they receive. Senior officials of the Minority Affairs Ministry will also attend the meeting to offer their views on the amendments. With the deadline for the BJP member Jagdambika Pal-led joint committee of Parliament to submit its report by Friday, there is a possibility that the panel may be given an extension to wrap up the remaining work, including discussing its draft report. Opposition members met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to press demands. *—PTI*

M'rashtra reinstates Rashmi Shukla as state police chief

MUMBAI, 26 NOV

The Maharashtra government has reinstated IPS officer Rashmi Shukla as Director General of Police (DGP) after the conclusion of the assembly polls, an order issued by the state home department on Monday. Sanjay Kumar Verma had taken over as the state's top police officer earlier after Shukla was removed from the DGP's post on the Election Commission of India's directive ahead of the elections. Meanwhile, Congress had demanded that she should be shunted out. Verma, a senior Indian Police Service officer, was to hold the top post till the election process was over, while Shukla was sent on compulsory leave for the same duration. *—PTI*

Iran seeks India's help to exit FATF blacklist

INDORE, 26 NOV

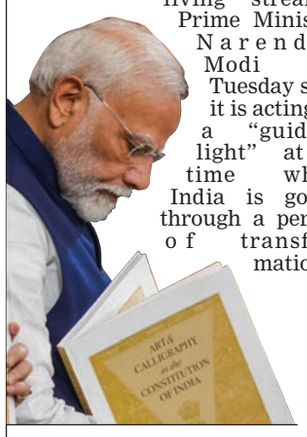
Iran has sought technical help from India through the Eurasian Group (EAG) so that it can be excluded from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) blacklist by compliance of norms, a senior central government official said here on Tuesday. India has assured support to Iran on sharing technical knowledge and expert advice through the EAG, he said. Earlier this year, Iran retained its place on the FATF's blacklist over international banking and related rules. Talking to reporters in Indore, Vivek Aggarwal, Additional Secretary of Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, said, "At present, Iran is on the blacklist of the FATF." The official said that the EAG and India are jointly planning to devise ways to provide technical assistance to Iran so that it can comply with the FATF standards. *—PTI*

Constitution lights path to change: PM

'Punishment system shifted to justice system'

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Hailing the Constitution as a "living stream", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said it is acting as a "guiding light" at a time when India is going through a period of transformation.



Addressing an event marking Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, Modi also paid homage to the victims of the Mumbai terror attack and reiterated the country's resolve that all terror groups challenging the security of India will be given a befitting reply.

Recalling the words of Rajendra Prasad in his concluding address to the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, Modi said he had stated that India does not need anything more than a group of honest people who will keep the country's interests above their own.

"This sentiment of 'nation first' will keep alive the Constitution for centuries to come," he said.

Modi said the Constitution has now been fully implemented in Jammu and Kashmir and Constitution Day was celebrated there for the first time.

India is going through a period of transformation and at such an important time, it is the Constitution of India that is "showing us the way and is a guiding light for us", Modi said.

Asserting that Indians should get speedy justice, Modi said that for this a new judicial code has been implemented.

"The punishment-based system has now changed to a justice-based system," he said. *—PTI*

I guarantee you, PM hasn't read it: RaGa

'Dalits, Adivasis, OBC's face systemic bias'

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the PM has not read the Constitution despite organising Constitution Day celebrations. Gandhi remarked that if Modi had read the Constitution, he would not act as he does daily.

"If PM Modi would have read this book then what he does daily, he would not do it," Gandhi said, displaying a copy of the Constitution of India.

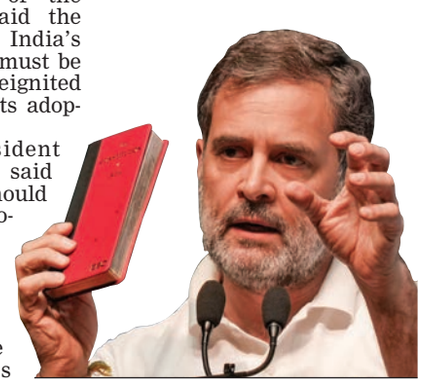
Rahul said the country's whole system is pitted against Dalits, Adivasis and backward-class people.

Rahul said the Constitution is not just a book, it is the thinking of India for thousands of years.

Congress urged citizens to protect the ethos of the Constitution and said the struggle to defend India's inherent philosophy must be reinvigorated and reignited in the 75th year of its adoption.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the people of India should come together to protect each and every thought expressed in the Constitution.

"The 75th year of the adoption of the Constitution has begun today. I extend my warmest wishes to all Indians on this historic occasion," the Congress president said in a post on X. *—PTI*



CJI Khanna: Constitution helped in country's change

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday said India has emerged as a vibrant democracy and a geopolitical leader, and the Constitution of the country has helped in this transformation.

India has had a transformative journey from a nation, which under the aftermath and horrors of partition saw widespread illiteracy, poverty, lack of robust democratic system of checks and balances, to one which has now become a self-assured country, the CJI said.

"But at the back of it is the Constitution of India, which has helped this transformation. It is today a way of life that has to be lived up to," Justice Khanna said, while speaking at the Constitution Day function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at the apex court. *—PTI*

BJP alleges Rahul disrespected Murmu on Constitution Day

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

BJP on Tuesday slammed Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he did not greet President Droupadi Murmu at an event held to mark Samvidhan Diwas in Parliament.

In one of the videos posted by the BJP on X, Gandhi was seen taking his seat on the dais at the event even before the President sat down.

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who was standing next to Gandhi, was seen prompting him to get up.

In another video clip posted by the BJP, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kharge were seen standing and greeting the President but Gandhi did not appear to be greeting the President. *—PTI*

> **We respect the Constitution but to celebrate at a time when many people have lost their lives in Sambhal is not right**
> —Akhilesh Yadav, Samjawadi Party Chief

> **Follow traditions of dignified, constructive debates of Constituent Assembly**
> -Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker

> **Our Constitution is a living and progressive document. The makers had provided for a system of adopting new ideas**
> -Droupadi Murmu, President

> **it is time to restore the sanctity of our democratic temples through constructive dialogue**
> -Dhankar, Vice President

'Maharashtra CM candidate on hold as BJP finalises portfolios'

MUMBAI, 26 NOV

BJP would not rush into announcing its chief ministerial candidate until the distribution of portfolios in the new Maharashtra government is finalised, party sources said on Tuesday.

The indications that the Mahayuti coalition's decision on who would become the next CM would be delayed emerged as the Governor on Tuesday morning asked Eknath Shinde to act as a caretaker chief minister after he tendered his resignation.

As for the announcement of the chief minister candidate, the source said, "The BJP central body will appoint an observer or a team of observers who will visit Mumbai. They will meet the MLAs and senior party functionaries to finalise the cabinet formula. Once that is done, they will announce the party's choice for the leader of the legislative wing."

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde with Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar *PHOTO: PTI*

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday asked supporters not to throng his official residence 'Varsha' in south Mumbai to pitch for his continuation as CM.

Shinde-led Shiv Sena has claimed that the Maratha community wants him to continue in the top post. *—PTI*

Kejriwal calls BJP's 'jhuggi tourism' an eyewash

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday stepped up his attack on the BJP, accusing it of resorting to "jhuggi tourism" ahead of the assembly polls, despite "demolishing" several slums in city in recent years.

Addressing the AAP's foundation day function, Kejriwal said some leaders of the BJP were now going to stay with slums dwellers but will return with bulldozers a year later to demolish them.

Meanwhile, addressing the media in the national capital, Chief Minister Atishi accused the central government of attempting to manipulate the electoral process. *—PTI*

'CAME HERE FOR BLESSINGS'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with Jharkhand Chief Minister designate Hemant Soren, in New Delhi, on Tuesday *PHOTO: PTI*

₹1,115 cr disaster funds for states gets Centre's nod

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

A high-level committee headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved a total of Rs 1,000 crore for various disaster mitigation and capacity-building projects in 15 states.

The committee also approved another project for training and capacity building of civil defence volunteers in all states and Union territories at a total outlay of Rs 115.67 crore, according to an official statement.

According to an official statement, a sum of Rs 139 crore each was approved for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, Rs 100 crore for Maharashtra, Rs 72 crore each for Karnataka and Kerala, Rs 50 crore each for Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and Rs 378 crore for the eight Northeastern states – Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

Another proposal for training and capacity building of civil defence volunteers in all states and UT's under-preparedness and capacity building from the funding window of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) was also considered, it said.

Under the Modi government, more than Rs 21,476 crore has already been released. *—PTI*

TMC leader held by CBI in WB school jobs scam

KOLKATA, 26 NOV

CBI arrested a Trinamool Congress leader, a close aide of former Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, for his alleged involvement in the school jobs scam, an official said.

The TMC leader from Behala, Santu Ganguly, was held on Monday evening after marathon questioning by officers of the central probe agency at its city office here in connection with irregularities in recruitment in state-run primary schools, he said.

"We have evidence of his involvement in the scam. There is proof of his involvement in monetary dealings," the officer told PTI.

The CBI, during earlier searches at Ganguly's Behala residence, had seized several bank-related documents pertaining to the case, he said.

Ex-Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee's aide was held *PHOTO: X*

"Ganguly has been close to Partha Chatterjee (former state industry minister). He was summoned today and remained non-cooperative throughout the questioning. We needed to take him in custody as part of the investigation," the officer added.

The Enforcement Directorate, too, had earlier quizzed him and conducted search operations at his residence. *—PTI*

PARENTS OF LATE RG KAR DOC VISIT WB ASSEMBLY

KOLKATA, 26 NOV

The parents of the woman doctor who was raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital visited the West Bengal Assembly on Tuesday and met Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, demanding justice.

After the meeting, Adhikari said that BJP would on 10 December stage a sit-in in front of Raj Bhavan demanding justice.

They also met Indian Secular Front (ISF) MLA Nawsad Siddique. *—PTI*

AMID ETHNIC STRIFE

Tension in Manipur after man goes missing

IMPHAL, 26 NOV

Tension was palpable on Tuesday in parts of the Imphal West district that borders Kangpokpi after a 55-year-old man belonging to the Meitei community remained missing for more than 24 hours, officials said.

Laishram Kamalbabu Singh, a resident of Loitang Khunou village in Imphal West, left home on Monday afternoon to report for work at the Leimakhong Army Camp in Kangpokpi. He has been missing since then, they said.

His mobile phone has been switched off, they added.

"A joint search operation by the police and the Army is underway for him," a police officer said.

According to his family, Singh did menial jobs at the Leimakhong Army Camp of 57 Mountain Division, located 16 km away from the state capital and surrounded by Kuki-dominated areas.

Security personnel during a search operation in the fringe and vulnerable areas of hill and valley districts of Manipur *PHOTO: PTI*

Meiteis who lived near Leimakhong have fled the area since the onset of the ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives since May last year.

Meanwhile, a large number of people from Singh's village on the way to Leimakhong to know his whereabouts were stopped by forces near Kanto Sabal to prevent an escalation of situation, *—PTI*

Meiteis call for govt office shutdown

An apex body of Imphal Valley-based civil society organisations representing Meiteis in Manipur on Tuesday said it has decided to observe a "shutdown" of central and state government offices for two days from 27 November, demanding removal of AFSPA and an operation against Kukis.

Cong woos leaders from troubled Kerala BJP

PALAKKAD, 26 NOV

- The district leadership of the Congress said if the BJP councillors wished to renounce Hindutva and embrace the Congress ideology, they would be welcomed

Amid the rift in Kerala BJP over the party's loss in the Palakkad Assembly by-poll, the Congress on Tuesday tried to cash in on the opportunity by inviting dissident leaders of the saffron party to its fold.

What prompted the grand old party to make the political move was the displeasure openly expressed by the Chairperson and many councillors of the BJP-ruled Palakkad Municipality over the selection of C Krishnakumar as the party candidate in the Assembly by-poll.

The district leadership of the Congress said if the BJP councillors wished to renounce Hindutva and embrace the Congress ideology, they would be welcomed.

Senior Congress leader and Palakkad MP VK Sreekandan and DCC president A Thankappan extended the invitation through the media. However, they denied to have held talks with any of the BJP councillors in this regard. The matter would be taken up only after they expressed willingness to quit the saffron party, they said.

If anyone expressed their desire to join the Congress, they would not be kept waiting at the doorstep. The portals of the party would be thrown open, he said. *—PTI*

'Maharaja' to be released in China on Friday

BEIJING, 26 NOV

Tamil suspense film 'Maharaja' will be released in China on Friday becoming the first Indian cinema to be screened for Chinese audiences after the normalisation of ties between the two countries following last month's agreement to resolve the standoff in Eastern Ladakh. The suspense film 'Maharaja' has already begun pre-screenings and its release here coincides with two major competitors - Hollywood's Gladiator II and local film Her Story.State-run Global Times reported on Tuesday that the film currently holds a high rating of 8.7/10 on Chinese movie review site Douban and is regarded as one of the highest-rated Indian films in recent years.—*PTI*

Indrani moves SC, seeks permission to travel abroad

NEW DELHI, 30 OCT

Former media executive Indrani Mukerjea, accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora, has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Bombay High Court ruling denying her to travel abroad. Mukerjea's 10-day travel to Spain and the UK was allowed by a special court, but the CBI challenged the order, leading Mukerjea to challenge the verdict. The court ruled that Mukerjea, a British national, needs to perform bank account documents and other work in Spain and the UK. It set gone aside a special court order but stated that statutory authorities would provide necessary support if the Mukerjea wanted to perform these works from India. In 2015, Mukerjea, her driver Shyamvar Rai, and her former husband Sanjeev Khanna were arrested for murdering Bora. —*PTI*

4 killed as 3 houses collapse in MP explosion

MORENA, 26 NOV

Four women have died and five others sustained injuries following a devastating explosion that caused three houses to collapse in the Rathore Colony area of Morena city, Madhya Pradesh, around midnight, according to local police. Superintendent of Police Sameer Saurabh confirmed that the body of one victim is still being retrieved from the debris. Superintendent of Police Sameer Saurabh confirmed that the body of one victim is still being retrieved from the debris. Vasudev Rathore, whose home was destroyed in the incident, suspects that the blast was caused by gunpowder, noting that LPG cylinders were found intact amidst the rubble. Sub Divisional Magistrate Bhupendra Singh Kushwaha stated that the cause of the explosion remains unclear.—*PTI*

5 crushed to death after truck ploughs into tent in Kerala

KERALA, 26 NOV

At least five people, including two children, were killed and six others were injured when a truck ploughed into the roadside tent where they were sleeping in this district early on Tuesday, police said. A truck struck two children and two women on a national highway in Nattika, killing them. The truck was carrying timber from Kannur and was driven by a drunk cleaner. The driver and cleaner were taken into custody, and both were found to be under the influence of alcohol. A case of culpable homicide under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has been registered in Thrissur City, with a 10-year imprisonment sentence. The driver and cleaner were caught and treated at Thrissur College. —*PTI*

Weary calm in Sambhal after communal clashes

Schools reopen, internet suspended after 5 killed in riots

SAMBHAL, 26 NOV

Two days after violent clashes erupted during a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque, the situation in Sambhal is gradually returning to normal. Schools reopened on Tuesday, and several shops selling essential goods resumed operations, although internet services remain suspended.

A Samajwadi Party delegation's scheduled visit to Sambhal on Tuesday has been postponed following an assurance of a fair probe by the Uttar Pradesh Police chief, a senior leader said.

Local police and administrative officials are maintaining a heightened presence to ensure stability in the area. Personnel have been deployed at key intersections, with Rapid Action Force teams stationed in sensitive locales. As a precaution, authorities have imposed restrictions on the entry of outsiders and public representatives into Sambhal, effective until 30 November.

A lane is barricaded as police continue to keep vigil in Sambhal on Tuesday PHOTO: PTI

While most of the district appears calm, the vicinity around Shahi Jama Masjid remains largely deserted. Tension escalated in Sambhal following the start of the mosque survey on 19 November, prompted by a petition claiming a Harihar temple once occupied the site. On Sunday, a large crowd gathered near the mosque, shouting slogans as the survey team attempted to continue its work. This resulted in violent clashes with security personnel, leading to vehicle arson and stone pelting.

According to official reports, four individuals have died as a result of the violence, and around two dozen others, including security staff and local officials, were injured. Superintendent of Police Krishna Kumar Vishnoi assured that the situation is under control and promised "strict action" against those responsible for the unrest.

Authorities are currently analysing drone footage, CCTV recordings, and mobile videos to identify suspects. To date, 25 arrests have been made, and seven FIRs have been registered, with prominent local political figures, including Samajwadi Party MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq, named among the accused. —*PTI*

SCHOOLS CLOSED IN PUDUCHERRY

Rains hit TN as depression brews, CM alerts officials

CHENNAI, 26 NOV

Several regions in Tamil Nadu experienced heavy rainfall today as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported the development of a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm on 27 November.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin convened a high-level meeting to evaluate precautionary measures and deployed teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to Tiruvarur, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, and Cuddalore districts. The rains have resulted in traffic congestion across Chennai, with significant delays reported on major roads such as OMR, and disruptions affecting flight landings at the local airport.

Chief Minister Stalin, via video conferencing, outlined an action plan anticipating very heavy rainfall in

PHOTO: PTI

Mayiladuthurai, Villupuram, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, and Cuddalore. District collectors informed him that relief camps and medical teams were on standby, with instructions to prepare evacuation plans for residents in low-lying areas. Two NDRF teams have been dispatched to Thanjavur, and additional teams sent to the other affected districts. Fishermen have been warned against heading to sea, while those already out have been instructed to return to the nearest harbours. Puducherry has declared a holiday for all government, private, and government-aided schools and colleges. —*PTI*

'POOR INTERPERSONAL TIES'

Always complaining, lack empathy: Top general on women in Army

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Over a year-and-a-half after a special selection board was put together to promote 108 women officers to the rank of colonel, a top general has written to the Eastern Army commander listing a host of "issues" associated with various women commanding officers such as "exaggerated tendency to complain" and "lack of empathy".

Sources in the defence establishment said the letter was a feedback shared by the general, but it was his opinion and "not of the Army".

The 1.3 million-strong force has maintained that the Army is a gender-agnostic force.

In the letter, dated 1 October, Lieutenant General Rajeev Puri has written to General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, Lieutenant General Ram Chander Tiwari, citing findings of an "in-house review" of eight woman commanding officers (COs) carried out based on their "demonstrated performance". Lieutenant General Puri has broadly listed the "issued identified" which include -- "interpersonal relation", an "exaggerated tendency to complain", a "misplaced sense of entitlement", "lack of empathy", and

There are only 0.56% women officers in the Army, 1.08% in the Air Force and 6.5% in the Navy in the 1.4 million-strong personnel PHOTO: PTI

5,000 kg drugs seized by ICG linked to Thailand

PORT BLAIR, 26 NOV

In a significant drug bust, the Andaman and Nicobar Command has seized 5,500 kg of banned Methamphetamine from a fishing trawler near Barren Island, with six Myanmarese crew members suspected of attempting to deliver the narcotics to Thailand. Authorities are now trying to obtain call records from a seized satellite phone, as the crew has been uncooperative in revealing information about the intended recipients and the masterminds behind the operation. Police believe the drugs may be connected to notorious drug cartels, including the Jalisco New Generation Cartel and Chinese factions associated with El Chapo. Given the quantity and the method of packaging—inside tea packets—officials suspect that the consignment was planned for distribution during the holiday season, a peak period for drug demand in Thailand. This seizure marks the largest ever recorded in the Andaman Sea. The Coast Guard Dornier aircraft first spotted the fishing trawler on 23 November, prompting a warning and subsequent interception by patrol vessels, who towed it to Port Blair for further investigation.Laboratory tests at Port Blair have confirmed the substance as Methamphetamine, valued in the thousands of crores on the international market. —*PTI*

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY DECLINES TO 'VERY POOR' CATEGORY

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Delhi's air quality deteriorated sharply on Tuesday, enveloping the national capital in a thick haze. At 9am, the Air Quality Index (AQI) was measured at a concerning 392, a significant rise from the 281 noted the previous day, as per data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The CPCB categorises AQI levels as follows: 0-50 'good'; 51-100 'satisfactory'; 101-200 'moderate'; 201-300 'poor'; 301-400 'very poor'; and 401-500 'severe'. Alarmingly, 17 of Delhi's 39 monitoring stations reported air quality classified as 'severe', indicating serious health risks for both healthy individuals and those with pre-existing conditions. —*PTI*

Kozhikode woman accuses husband of abuse again

KOZHIKODE, 26 NOV

In a dramatic turn of events in the Pantheerankavu domestic violence case, the victim has once again accused her husband of physical abuse, just months after previously quashing their case in Kerala High Court. The woman was admitted to the local medical college on Monday evening with facial injuries, reportedly inflicted by her spouse, Rahul P Gopal.

Initially, the woman declined to file a complaint; however, by Tuesday, she had changed her mind and began recording her statement with police. Following this development, her husband has been detained for questioning. A senior police officer confirmed that further action will depend on her statement.

Back in June, the woman publicly stated that her earlier accusations against her husband were fabricated and made under pressure from her parents. In a social media video, she expressed regret, asking for forgiveness from her husband and his family, adding that she had "lied" to law enforcement and the media.

Allegations from the woman's family had claimed that Gopal assaulted her and attempted to murder her over dowry disputes shortly after their marriage on 5 May.

Furthermore, she had previously accused local police of failing to register a case of attempted murder, despite her claims that he tried to strangle her with a charging cable. This new complaint marks a significant escalation in the ongoing saga of alleged domestic abuse. —*PTI*

Farmer forcefully taken to hospital ahead of stir

CHANDIGARH, 26 NOV

Jagjit Singh Dallewal, a prominent farmer leader in Punjab, was forcibly taken to Dayanand Medical College and Hospital in Ludhiana for a medical check-up on Tuesday, just as he was about to initiate a hunger strike to press for farmers' demands. Sarwan Singh Pandher, a leader of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, claimed that police removed Dallewal from the Khanauri border point in the early hours.

Reports indicated that a team of 250 police officers arrived at

PHOTO: PTI

the Khanauri border around 2.30am to remove him. Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu accused the Punjab government of orchestrating Dallewal's detention. —*PTI*

AI 'pee'gate: SC asks Centre to come up with more guidelines for flyers

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Centre and aviation regulator DGCA to frame more comprehensive guidelines to control unruly air passengers and observed "something creative" had to be done.

A 73-year-old woman filed a plea against a male co-passenger urinating inebriated on an Air India flight in November 2022, seeking directions from the Centre, DGCA, and air carriers to create a standard operating procedure to handle similar incidents.

The bench heard a plea from a woman who claimed that Air India and the Directorate

PHOTO: PTI

General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) failed to treat her with care and responsibility after an unpleasant experience. The petitioner argues that media guidelines are insufficient and unverified statements harm victims and accused individuals. She seeks compliance with legal requirements for airline crew and staff. In January 2023, accused Shankar Mishra was granted bail in Delhi, but was instructed not to tamper with evidence, influence witnesses, or leave without court permission.

The PIL has called on the Centre and the DGCA to ensure that civil aviation requirements norms are upheld to international standards. The petitioner argues that the lack of clear media guidelines and unverified statements harm victims. She seeks compliance with airline crew and staff reporting protocols. Shankar Mishra was granted bail in Delhi, but was instructed not to tamper with evidence or influence witnesses. —*PTI*

SC SUSPENDS LIFER OF 2 IN 2003 NCP LEADER'S MURDER

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

The Supreme Court has suspended the life sentences of two convicts in the high-profile murder case of NCP leader Ram Avatar Jaggi, who was shot dead in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, in June 2003. Jaggi's assassination occurred ahead of 2003 Assembly elections. Chhattisgarh High Court had sentenced 28 individuals to life imprisonment after affirming that the murder was politically motivated. While the Supreme Court rejected bail for convict Yahya Dhebar, it granted bail and suspended the life sentences of Abhay Goyal and Feroz Sidhiquie. —*PTI*

10 arrested after violence in Arunachal student polls

ITANAGAR, 26 NOV

Ten individuals were arrested in Itanagar following violent clashes amid the counting of votes for the All Nyishi Students' Union (ANSU) elections, authorities reported on Tuesday. The unrest erupted at Siddhartha Hall around 9pm on Monday, involving supporters of two rival candidates, according to Superintendent of Police (Capital) Rohit Rajbir Singh.

The conflict escalated with the use of sharp weapons and lathis, resulting in injuries to five people. Reports indicated that gunfire erupted from both sides, leading the police to respond with tear gas, stun grenades, and a lathicharge to restore order.

While the immediate situation was brought under control, sporadic gunfire persisted from surrounding hilltops. Several police officers also sustained injuries during the disturbances. —*PTI*

AFTER FAMILY FEUD

Udaipur royals tense amid govt interference

JAIPUR, 26 NOV

The district administration has appointed a receiver to oversee a contentious section of Udaipur's City Palace following an incident where Vishvaraj Singh, the new ceremonial head of the former royal family, was denied access.

Tensions flared late on Monday after clashes erupted between Singh's supporters and those of his uncle, Arvind Singh Mewar, who currently manages the City Palace. Vishvaraj Singh was recently anointed the titular leader of the Mewar royal family after the passing of his father, Mahendra Singh Mewar, earlier this month.

Singh's visit to the palace,

Supporters of BJP MLA Vishvaraj Singh break barricade after he was denied entry into Udaipur Palace in Udaipur on Monday PHOTO: PTI

intended for prayers at a religious site known as the "dhuni" and a subsequent visit to the Eklingnathji temple, was thwarted by Arvind Singh Mewar. His uncle had issued public notices warning of legal action against trespassers, leading to significant police deployment to maintain order.

After arriving in Udaipur with a sizable group of supporters, Singh was kept waiting for several hours outside the palace gates at Jagdish Chowk. Attempts by his supporters to breach police barricades resulted in protests and violence, with several policemen injured due to stone-throwing.

In response to the rising tensions, additional district magistrate appointed Ghanta Ghar SHO Yogendra Kumar Vyas as receiver for the disputed area. Notices regarding the appointment were posted at the palace's main entrance. Following this decision, Singh left the area around 1.30am without being able to visit the dhuni.

The receiver will now take charge of the disputed area and determine entry protocols. —*PTI*

UP man dies of heat in ambulance, kin blames hosp

LUCKNOW, 26 NOV

A 60-year-old man allegedly died on the way to a hospital in an ambulance after he could not get a ventilator at the King George Medical University where he was undergoing treatment for a heart condition.

Abrar Ahmed, a man who underwent angioplasty at KGMU's Cardiology Department in 2018, was admitted to a hospital after his condition deteriorated. Doctors said he needed a ventilator immediately, but there was no spare unit. Ahmed's son Saif alleged that doctors did not pay attention to his father's repeated requests for a ventilator. Ahmed was given four injections, which led to bleeding from his nose and mouth. Despite his pleadings, doctors treated him badly. He was referred to the Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, where he died on the way. An FIR has not yet been lodged.

Ahmed, diagnosed with coronary artery disease in 2018, skipped regular checkups. After angioplasty, he was called for follow-ups but did not return to the OPD. When his health deteriorated, he was admitted to the emergency room with severe heart failure. Doctors admitted him and provided oxygen support.

However, all ICU-ventilator beds were full, so Ahmed was taken to Sanjay Gandhi PGI and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences. —*PTI*

16 YRS OF 26/11 TERROR ATTACK

People pay tribute to 26/11 terror attack victims, in Mumbai, on Tuesday. On 26 November, 2008, the 26/11 Mumbai attacks shook entire nation as 10 armed militants from the Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) launched a series of coordinated assaults on iconic landmarks, including the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Oberoi Trident Hotel, CST Railway Station, and Nariman House. The devastating attacks claimed 166 lives, including 18 security personnel, and left over 300 injured
PHOTO: X

What it took to frame India's Constitution

Debates over 167 days, 274 members, 36 lakh words -- that's what it took before the Constituent Assembly adopted the world's longest written constitution on this day in 1949.

Every Article in the Constitution, which ran into 1.45 lakh words at the time, was debated by members of the Constituent Assembly. They sat for 11 sessions and 167 days over a period of two years, 11 months and 18 days to frame the Constitution.

BR Ambedkar, regarded as the chief architect of the Constitution, was assisted by members of the drafting committee he chaired.

India's first president Rajendra Prasad was the first person to sign the document 75 years ago.

It is the largest written constitution in the world and the first edition was neither printed nor typed -- it was handwritten and calligraphed in both Hindi and English.

According to facts available on the Lok Sabha website and analysis of Constituent Assembly debates by the think-tank PRS India, the Constitution's first copy was handwritten by Prem Behari Narain Raizada and published by him in Dehradun.

Every page was decorated by artists from Shantiniketan, including Beohar Rammanohar Sinha and Nandalal Bose.

It took two years, 11 months and 18 days to complete the final draft. At present, it contains 395 Articles and 12 Schedules. The Constitution has been amended 106 times so far.

Approximately 36 lakh words were spoken during debates in the Constituent Assembly and two-thirds of all deliberations were during the clause-by-clause discussions during the second reading.

From November 1948 to October 1949, the Constituent Assembly met for clause-by-clause discussions on the draft Constitution. The members met for 101 days during this period.

Fundamental Rights were included in Part III of the draft Constitution and discussed for 16 days.

As much as 14 per cent of the total clause-by-clause discussions was dedicated to Fundamental Rights.

Directive Principles of State Policy were included in Part IV and discussed for six days.

Four per cent of the clause-by-clause discussion was dedicated to Directive Principles.

Provisions related to citizenship were included in Part II. Two per cent of the discussion was dedicated to this part.

Six members spoke more than a lakh words, with Ambedkar contributing over 2.67 lakh words.

India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, a member of the Constituent Assembly, spoke 73,804 words.

The drafting committee scrutinised and revised the draft created by BN Rau, the constitutional advisor, and submitted it for consideration of the assembly.

The drafting committee members frequently responded to comments made by other members during the discussion.

A few members who were not part of the drafting committee participated extensively in Constituent Assembly debates. Five such members said more than a lakh words each.

Fifteen women were a part of the Constituent Assembly during its entire tenure. Of them, 10 participated in debates and contributed to two per cent of the discussions.

The highest participation was made by G Durgabai with nearly 23,000 words. She spoke extensively on the judiciary during the debates.

Ammu Swaminathan, Begum Aizaz Rasul and Dakshyani Velayudhan participated in debates on Fundamental Rights.

Hansa Mehta and Renuka Ray participated in debates on justice for women.

Interestingly, members from provinces contributed 85 per cent to the Constituent Assembly debates.

In the Constituent Assembly, 210 members elected from provinces and 64 members nominated by the princely states participated in debates.

On an average, each member from the provinces spoke 14,817 words and a member from the princely states spoke 3,367 words.

Speeches and interventions made by presiding officers contributed to nine per cent of the discussions.

The Constituent Assembly met for the first time in Delhi on December 9, 1946, in the Constitution Hall, now known as the Central Hall of old Parliament House -- called Samvidhan Sadan.

Decorated elegantly for the occasion on the day, the chamber wore a new look with a constellation of bright lamps hanging from the high ceilings and from brackets on its walls.

The members sat in semi-circular rows facing the presidential dais. Desks that could be electrically warmed were placed on sloping green-carpeted terraces.

Those who sat in the front row were Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Acharya JB Kripalani, Prasad, Sarojini Naidu, Hare-Krushna Mahatab, Govind Ballabh Pant, Ambedkar, Sarat Chandra Bose, C Rajagopalachari and M Asaf Ali.

Two hundred and seven representatives, including nine women, were also present.

—PTI

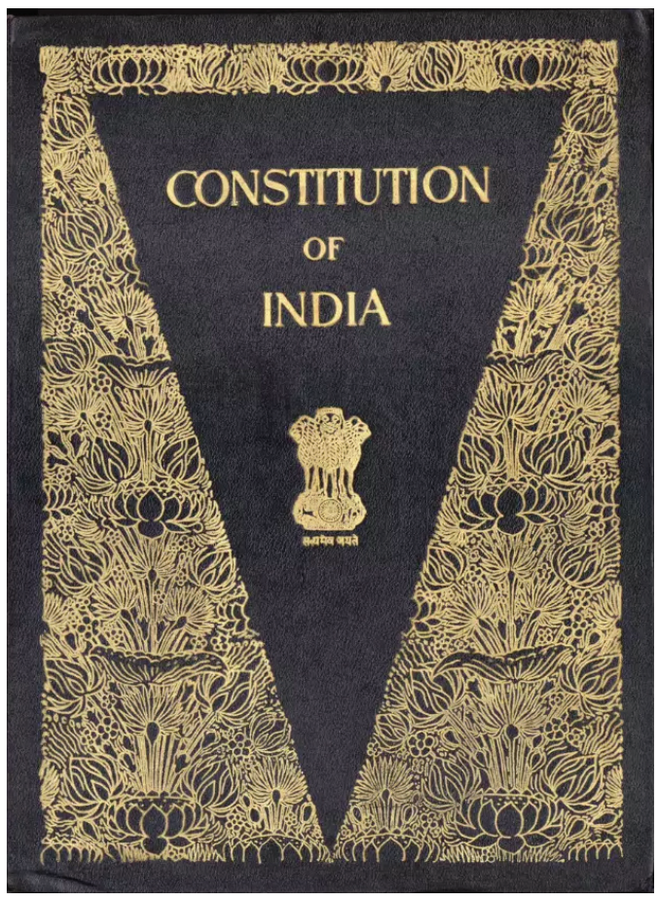


PHOTO: X

Constitution of India took two years, 11 months and 18 days to complete the final draft. At present, it contains 395 Articles and 12 Schedules

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

What's blocking ceasefire between Israel, Hezbollah?

Diplomats and other officials say there have been several sticking points in ceasefire talks to end the war between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, even as conditions for an agreement appear to be ripe.

Israel's military has killed nearly all of the militant group's top leaders, but it continues to fire missiles into Israel. Tens of thousands of Israelis who were evacuated from the border months ago are pressuring their government to help them go home. And the world wants to stop regional conflict from spreading after more than a year of fighting.

Following the latest visit to the region by a US mediator, Israel hit central Beirut over the weekend, and Hezbollah responded with its biggest barrage in weeks as each applied pressure to reach a deal.

Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged fire almost daily since the day after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on 7 October, 2023, setting off the war in Gaza.

A proposed two-month ceasefire to start

The proposal under discussion to end the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah calls for an initial two-month ceasefire during which Israeli forces would withdraw from Lebanon and Hezbollah would end its armed presence along the southern border south of the Litani River.

The withdrawals would be accompanied by an influx of thousands more Lebanese army troops, who have been largely sidelined in the war, to patrol the border area along with an existing UN peacekeeping force.

An international committee would be set up to monitor implementation of the ceasefire agreement and of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which was passed in 2006 to end a monthlong war between Israel and Hezbollah but never fully implemented.

Hezbollah never ended its presence in southern Lebanon, while Lebanon said Israel regularly violated its airspace and occupied small patches of its territory.

It is not clear whether a new deal would be any more successfully implemented than the one in 2006.

Israel wants freedom to strike Hezbollah and other disagreements

Two Western diplomats described several points of dispute to The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss ongoing negotiations.

They said Israel was asking for more guarantees to ensure that Hezbollah's weapons are removed from the border area. Israeli officials, concerned about the possibility of Hezbollah launching the kind of attack that Hamas carried out from Gaza into southern Israel, have said they would not agree to a ceasefire deal that doesn't explicitly grant them freedom to strike in Lebanon if they believe Hezbollah is violating it.

Lebanon and Israel have also disagreed over which countries would sit on the international committee overseeing implementation of the deal and Resolution 1701.

Both sides have an interest in ending the war

A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, the strongest of Iran's armed proxies, is expected to significantly calm regional tensions that have led to fears of war between Israel and Iran directly. It's not clear how it would affect the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Hezbollah had long insisted that it would not agree to a ceasefire until the war in Gaza ends, but it has now dropped that condition.

One diplomat said there are fears that if no ceasefire is reached, the war will expand further into Syria and Iraq as Israel attempts to cut off the supply of weapons from Iran to Hezbollah. Israel has carried out regular airstrikes on Iran-linked groups in Syria and has threatened to strike in Iraq, where Iran-backed militias have periodically launched drone attacks on Israel.

Analysts say Hezbollah has been weakened but continues to keep up steady fire into Israel, including strikes far from the border.

In Lebanon, where officials and residents are anxious for war to end, an initial rush of optimism dissipated after the Biden administration's point man on Israel and Lebanon, Amos Hochstein, left the region last week without a deal.

Many now believe no agreement will be reached before President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January.

—PTI

Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged fire almost daily since the day after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on 7 October, 2023 ***PHOTO: PTI***

One move at a time: How Chennai mints chess champions

Giant banners of a smiling teen beamed down on hundreds of students gathered at the school campus of Velammal Nexus to receive the young champion.

It was 10 August, 2024, and the school was ready to put on a show unlike any it had witnessed before: 220 drones projected the teenage hero's face into the sky as students held placards wishing him luck.

In a country that reserves this kind of adulation for movie actors and cricketers, a new and unlikely star had been born – in chess. Clad in his checked school uniform, 18-year-old Gukesh Dommaraju finally walked up to the stage to receive a gift from his school – a luxurious E-Class Mercedes Benz that he did not have a licence to drive yet.

Gukesh, a poker-faced, lanky teen, belongs to the latest crop of chess wizards that the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu has churned out in the last decade. The state is home to 31 grandmasters out of 85 in all of India and even proudly boasts of a temple for the sport in the Tiruvarur district.

A school for champions

Gukesh is far from the only – or first – star chess champion to graduate from a Velammal Nexus school. The school's roster includes other young trailblazers like Rameshbabu Praggnanandha Rameshbabu Vaishali and Arjun Kalyan. While the Ramesbabu siblings compete with each other to break national and international records, Arjun is one of the coaches of the Indian national team, which won double gold at the Chess Olympiad in September in Slovenia.

They have all been trained by one man: 56-year-old Velavan Subbiah, the coach of the school's chess team for more than a decade.

Ten years ago, he says, there were approximately 300 students enrolled in his chess coaching classes. Now, that number has soared to 2,000, with students coming from all of the Velammal group's 15 school branches across Chennai.

About 30 minutes into our conversation, a group of students, impeccably dressed in their school uniforms of checked shirts and grey trousers, enter the room, clasping notes and water bottles. They pick up their chess boards and settle down to battle it out with their peers in the room.

Within minutes, there is tension as the children try to figure out both their next move – and that of their opponent. A six-year-old boy sits with both hands on his head while his neighbour taps the table nervously, coaches towering over the young players, deconstructing their moves and mistakes.

Students of Vellamal Nexus schools at academy run by school coach Velavan in Chennai ***PHOTO: AL JAZEERA***

A new generation takes over

For decades, Indian chess was synonymous with Vishwanathan Anand, the five-time world champion who locked horns with generations of other icons – from Russian Garry Kasparov in the 1990s to Norwegian Magnus Carlsen in recent years.

Now, the baton has been passed on: In October this year, Praggnanandha beat Anand in the quarterfinals of the WR Chess Masters tournament. Anand, meanwhile, trains and mentors rising chess talents including Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin, Raunak Sadhwani, Gukesh and Vaishali.

This new generation, coach Velavan says, has helped spread the sport's popularity even to remote villages. "Our boys and girls get recognised and mobbed in every corner of the state," says Velavan.

Behind Tamil Nadu's – and Chennai's in particular – emergence as a factory churning out chess champions is a combination of factors, coaches say.

Geopolitical events have helped, too. The 2022 Chess Olympiad, for instance, was originally supposed to be held in Russia, but was moved to Chennai following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

And when sibling grandmasters Vaishali, 23, and Praggnanandhaa, 19, tour the world for competitions, they are always accompanied by their doting mother Nagalakshmi.

Sacrifices to success

While Vaishali and Praggnanandhaa practice chess during their tours, Nagalakshmi carries her trusted utensils and food ingredients, dishing out healthy home-cooked meals. Often, she can be seen on the margins of the large halls where chess games are held, waiting anxiously for the results of her children's matches.

Meanwhile, back home in Chennai, the father of the siblings, Rameshbabu, dwells on the ecosystem of support that makes this possible. A retired bank manager, Rameshbabu and his wife Nagalakshmi do not come from a chess background.

It was day of Vijayadashami, a festival considered auspicious for new beginnings, when we visited GM Ramesh's chess academy (Chess Gurukul) in Chennai's T Nagar. This is where the Rameshbabu siblings and several other grandmasters have trained over the years.

Starting early

This October, nine-year-old Sharvaanica Anburoja Saravanan made history by becoming the youngest Indian player to surpass the 2000 Elo rating – a chess benchmark of quality that only 2 percent of active chess players have achieved.

She is the youngest female candidate master (WCM) in Asia and second-youngest WCM in the world. The WCM is a title awarded by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) exclusively to women chess players who are rated above 2000 in classical FIDE rating.

It all started when Sharvaanica, then just five, picked up the game from her older sister, Ratshikaa, during the Covid lockdown. Her mother, Anburoja – who spoke to Al Jazeera along with Sharvaanica on the phone in between games at a tournament in Portugal – used to run a tuition centre for neighbourhood kids in the small town of Ariyalur.

India's journey as a chess giant is only now taking off. But when Gukesh plays at the world championships next week, he will be carrying the hopes of hundreds of prodigies, their parents and coaches for whom chess is much more than a game.

Every move will be cheered and dissected in homes and academies across Chennai as a generation of even younger champions than 18-year-old prepares to checkmate global rivals.

—Al Jazeera

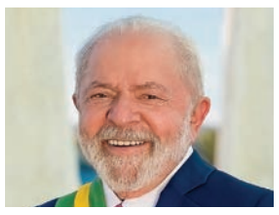


PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Recordings expose Brazilian officers' plan to oust Lula

SAO PAULO, 26 NOV

A trove of leaked audio recordings from late 2022 has revealed top members of Brazil's army conspiring to pressure then-President Jair Bolsonaro to carry out a coup and remain in power. The 53 audio recordings, obtained by the Federal Police and accessed by The Associated Press on Monday, provide a rare chance to hear military members expressing in their own voices their desire to keep leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from taking office. Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who is overseeing the investigation, quoted some of those audios in his ruling last week, ordering the arrest of five people for plotting the assassination of then-President-elect Lula in 2022 and attempting to oust him from power on 8 January, 2023. *—PTI*

Sumatra Island flood toll reaches 20

KARO, 26 NOV

Indonesian rescuers recovered 20 bodies and continued searching for two missing villagers in the flash floods in Sumatra Island, officials said on Tuesday. Torrential rains over the weekend caused rivers to burst their banks in four hilly districts in North Sumatra province. Four more bodies were recovered Monday evening in Karo Regency, bringing the total there to 10, National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said. Flash floods also left four people dead in Deli Serdang district, and rescue workers were still searching for two people who were swept away. Earlier, rescuers recovered two bodies in villages in South Tapanuli district, and four members of a family, including two children, in Harang Julu. *—PTI*

Egypt: 16 missing after yacht sinks in Red Sea

CAIRO, 26 NOV

A tourist yacht sank in the Red Sea after warnings of rough waters and 16 people were missing, Egyptian officials said on Tuesday. Red Sea region Governor Amr Hanafy said rescuers saved 28 people from the vessel south of the coastal town of Marsa Alam on Monday, and some were airlifted to receive medical treatment. Hanafy visited the site where the vessel sank, according to a Red Sea Governorate update on Facebook. A total of 44 people were on board the yacht, including 13 Egyptians, who include crew members, and 31 foreign nationals. The governor confirmed that rescuers were still searching. *—PTI*

Paramilitary soldiers fire tear gas shells to disperse supporters of imprisoned former premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party during clashes in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Shoot-at-sight order for Imran supporters

6 cops killed as PTI march turns violent

ISLAMABAD, 26 NOV

Four paramilitary personnel and two policemen have been killed and over 100 security personnel injured as a protest by the supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan turned violent, prompting the federal government to deploy the army in the national capital and issue shoot-at-sight orders on Tuesday, state-run media reported.

Pakistan deployed the army amid a tense stand-off with Khan's supporters from his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) pushing forward by removing hurdles on their way to Islamabad's D-Chowk venue as the government vowed to foil their attempt "even if a curfew needs to be imposed".

Radio Pakistan said a vehicle rammed into Pakistan Rangers personnel, killing four officials, on the Srinagar Highway in Islamabad late on Monday night. Five other Rangers and several police officials sustained severe injuries.

About five kilometres from this spot, at Chungi No 26 in Rawalpindi, a group of miscreants equipped with weapons and ammunition pelted stones and opened indiscriminate fire at Rangers, Radio Pakistan said.

Radio Pakistan further reported that the Pakistan Army was called in "to deal with the miscreants with an iron hand" and "clear orders have also been issued to shoot miscreants and troublemakers on sight."

Meanwhile, the United States called on Pakistani authorities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to ensure respect for the country's laws.

"In Pakistan and around the world, we support freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. We call on protesters to demonstrate peacefully and refrain from violence," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday.

"At the same time, we call on Pakistani authorities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to ensure respect for Pakistan's laws and constitution as they work to maintain law and order," he said. *—PTI*

Trump to tax goods from Canada, Mexico, China

WASHINGTON, 26 NOV

President-elect Donald Trump has said he will impose a 25 per cent tariff on all products coming from Canada and Mexico, and 10 per cent on Chinese goods, to check flow of illegal immigrants and drugs into the US.

In a series of posts on his Truth Social platform on Monday, he said he would sign Executive Orders imposing tariffs on the three countries as one of his first actions after assuming office on 20 January.

"As everyone is aware, thousands of people are pouring through Mexico and Canada, bringing Crime and Drugs at levels never seen before. Right now, a Caravan coming from Mexico, composed of thousands of people, seems to be unstoppable in its quest to come through our currently Open Border," Trump posted on the platform.

"On January 20th, as one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25% Tariff on ALL products coming into United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders.

"This Tariff will remain in effect until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country," he said.

He also accused China of failing to stop the flow of drugs into the US. *—PTI*

US Prez-elect Donald Trump to impose 10% tax on Chinese goods and 25% on products from Mexico and Canada **PHOTO: PTI**

Kash Patel in race for FBI chief

WASHINGTON, 26 NOV

US President-elect Donald Trump is keeping his controversial adviser Kash Patel in the running to be the next FBI director, according to two people familiar with the matter, as the transition team conducted interviews for the role on Monday night at the president-elect's Mar-a-Lago club. The existence of the interviews, made public in a since-deleted post by vice president-elect JD Vance, underscored intent to fire FBI director Christopher Wray. *—The Guardian*

PLEA IN COURT TO DROP CASES AGAINST TRUMP

WASHINGTON, 26 NOV

Special counsel Jack Smith has moved to abandon two criminal cases against Donald Trump, acknowledging that Trump's return to the White House will preclude attempts to federally prosecute him for retaining classified documents or trying to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

The decision was inevitable, as longstanding Justice Department policy says sitting presidents cannot face criminal prosecution.

Yet it was still a momentous finale to an unprecedented chapter in political and law enforcement history, as federal officials attempted to hold accountable a former president while he was running for another term.

In court filings on Monday, Smith's team emphasised that the move was not a reflection of the merit of the cases but a recognition of the legal shield that surrounds any commander in chief.

Smith's team said it was leaving intact charges against two co-defendants in the classified documents case – Trump valet Walt Nauta and Mar-a-Lago property manager Carlos De Oliveira – because "no principle of temporary immunity applies to them". *—PTI*

Israeli soldiers inspect the site where a rocket fired from Lebanon landed in a backyard in Kiryat Shmona, northern Israel, on Tuesday **PHOTO: PTI**

Israel set to okay 60-day Lebanon truce

TEL AVIV, 26 NOV

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will convene the high-level security cabinet in Tel Aviv on Tuesday evening to approve a 60-day ceasefire with the Hezbollah terror group in Lebanon after more than a year of war, an Israeli official told The Times of Israel on Monday.

At the same time, the official stressed that Israel was accepting a cessation of hostilities, not an end to the war on Hezbollah.

"We don't know how long it will last," the official said of the ceasefire. "It could be a month, it could be a year."

Lebanese sources told Reuters on Monday that US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron were expected to announce a ceasefire imminently.

Earlier Monday, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir told Netanyahu to reject the proposal for a ceasefire, calling it "a grave mistake," though, unlike in the past, he did not threaten to bring down the government if it were approved.

Media in Israel quotes him in an interview with Kan Radio saying, "We have a historic opportunity to decisively act in the south [in Gaza] and north [in Lebanon]. It will be a historical missed opportunity if we stop everything and go backwards." — *Times of Israel*

HINDU-SIKH UNITY EVENT HELD IN SACRAMENTO

WASHINGTON, 26 NOV

Days after a Hindu temple in Canada was attacked by alleged Khalistani activists, Indian-Americans in Silicon Valley held a 'Hindu Sikh Unity Interfaith' event honouring the sacrifice of Sikh guru Tegh Bahadur.

Hosted by Gurudwara Sant Nagar in Sacramento over the weekend, the event was attended by more than 200 members of Hindu, Sikh and other communities.

Prominent among those who attended the event were Elk Grove City Mayor Bobby Singh-Allen, Commissioner of City of Elk Grove Bhavin Parikh, Council member of City of Rocklin Jill Gayaldo, Vice Mayor of Elk Grove Rod Brewer, and member of Interfaith Council of Sacramento Akram Keval.

In his keynote address, Narinderpal Hundal of Sant Sagar Gurdwara said, "We should all uphold the message of unity that Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib gave by sacrificing himself to protect religion, and by obeying his command, maintain mutual brotherhood and love, and try to further propagate this mission." *—PTI*

Hong Kong gay couples get inheritance, housing rights

HONG KONG, 26 NOV

Hong Kong's top court on Tuesday upheld earlier rulings that favoured subsidised housing benefits and equal inheritance rights for same-sex married couples, in a landmark victory for the city's LGBTQ+ community.

The Court of Final Appeal's dismissal of the government's appeals ended some years long legal battles against the differential treatment faced by same-sex couples married overseas under Hong Kong's housing authority policies and two inheritance laws.

The unanimous decisions are expected to have a far-reaching impact on the lives of same-sex couples.

Chief Justice Andrew Cheung said in his judgement that exclusionary housing policies were argued to be beneficial to opposite-sex married couples because they increase the supply of subsidised housing for them. Hong Kong does not recognize same-sex marriage, prompting some couples to marry elsewhere.

Currently, city only recognizes same-sex marriage for certain purposes such as taxation, civil service, visas. *—PTI*

The unanimous decisions are expected to have a far-reaching impact on the lives of same-sex couples **PHOTO: X@AJPLUS**

Japan's new small rocket fails again

TOKYO, 26 NOV

The engine for a flagship new small Japanese rocket burst into flames on Tuesday during a combustion test, but there was no injury or damage to the outside, officials said. The second failure in a row raises concern about the progress of the Epsilon S rocket, whose debut is expected for next year.

The test was conducted inside of the restricted area at Japan's Tanegashima Space Center in south-western Japan. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency is investigating.

The fire was followed by an explosion and plumes of white smoke. Tuesday's failure comes just over a year after the explosion last year of the same Epsilon S engine during a test, said Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

Last year's explosion was related to damage to ignition systems of the engine and JAXA has taken the steps. *—PTI*

BEST ACTRESS
AOKBAB-CHUTIMON CHUENGCHAROENSUKYING
for 'Hunger' (Thailand)

Spall, Aokbab-Chutimon win big at International Emmys

The 52nd International Emmy Awards, held in New York City on Monday, was a star-studded night that celebrated the best TV shows from around the world in 2023, outside the US. This year, 21 countries were represented across 14 categories and 56 nominees.

HERE ARE THE WINNERS

DRAMA SERIES
'LES GOUTTES DE DIEU [DROPS OF GOD]' (FRANCE)

COMEDY
'DIVISIÓN PALERMO' (ARGENTINA)

DOCUMENTARY
'OTTO BAXTER: NOT A FING HORROR STORY', (THE UK)**

SHORT-FORM SERIES
'PUNT DE NO RETORN [POINT OF NO RETURN]', SPAIN

SPORTS DOCUMENTARY
'BRAWN: THE IMPOSSIBLE F1 STORY' (THE UK)

TELENOVELA
'LA PROMESA [THE VOW]' (SPAIN)

TV MOVIE / MINI-SERIES
'LIEBES KIND [DEAR CHILD]' (GERMANY)

KIDS
ANIMATION: 'TABBY MCTAT' (THE UK)

NEWS
INSIDE GAZA: ISRAEL AND HAMAS AT WAR (CHANNEL 4 NEWS)

BEST ACTOR
TIMOTHY SPALL
for 'The Sixth Commandment' (The UK)

IT ALL GOES WELL FOR VIR AT EMMYS

Stand-up comic and actor Vir Das became the first Indian to host the International Emmy Awards, a year after winning a the award for his stand-up special 'Landing'. Das shared a clip on social media from his hosting monologue, in which he referenced the slap incident from the 2022 Oscars where Hollywood star Will Smith slapped colleague Chris Rock for cracking a joke on his wife Jada Pinkett Smith. "Who does Will have to slap tonight for us to get some eyeballs? I'm kidding. We're foreigners, you can't slap foreigners with anything (else) but with sanctions. Sorry, tariffs," the comic can be heard saying in the video.

India's **'THE NIGHT MANAGER'**, which was nominated in drama series category, lost

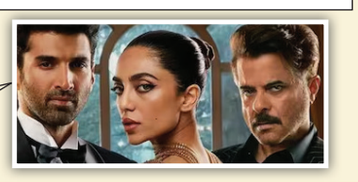


PHOTO: PTI

Gold plunges ₹1,250; silver plummets ₹1,100

MUMBAI, 26 NOV

Gold prices fell sharply for the second straight session and plunged Rs 1,250 to Rs 78,150 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday as strengthening dollar took the sheen off the yellow metal in the global markets. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity settled Rs 1,000 lower at Rs 79,400 per 10 grams on Monday. old of 99.5 per cent purity also slumped Rs 1,250 to Rs 77,750 per 10 grams from Monday's closing level of Rs 79,000 per 10 grams. Silver also followed suit and declined Rs 1,100 to Rs 90,600 per kg on Tuesday. It had closed Rs 1,600 lower at Rs 91,700 per kg in the previous session. Globally, Comex gold futures climbed USD 13.40 per ounce or 0.51 per cent to USD 2,656 per ounce. *—PTI*

Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 84.32 against US dollar

MUMBAI, 26 NOV

Rupee fell 3 paise to close at 84.32 (provisional) against US dollar on Tuesday, as the greenback strengthened on Donald Trump's tariff plans and a muted trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said US President elect Donald Trump's comments that he would impose additional 10 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods and impose a 25 per cent levy on imports from Mexico and Canada has affected risk sentiment. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.27 and touched an intra-day high of 84.22 and low of 84.35 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 84.32 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 3 paise over its previous close. *—PTI*

Amway India posts ₹52.8 crore loss, flat revenue

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Direct seller Amway India Enterprises has reported widening of net loss to Rs 52.78 crore, while revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,283.75 crore in FY'24. Amway India's total income increased by 0.7 per cent to Rs 1,293.97 crore for the financial year ending 31 March, 2024. Despite a net loss of Rs 21.72 crore, operations revenue reached Rs 1,278.69 crore, with advertising promotional expenses decreasing by 25.5 per cent to Rs 61.03 crore. Amway India Enterprises, a subsidiary of Alticor Global Holdings Inc., reported a 1.64 per cent decrease in total expenses in FY24. The company's revenue from 'Nutrition and Wellness' increased to Rs 782.40 crore, but declined in 'Personal Care', 'Home Care' segments. *—PTI*

TCS gets pension deal extension for 30L defence staff

MUMBAI, 26 NOV

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Tuesday said it has bagged an extension of a Government of India contract on processing the pension for 30 lakh defence personnel. TCS has signed a three-year extension for the SPARSH system, a government initiative aimed at streamlining pension distribution for over 30 lakh defence pensioners, saving Rs 250 crore annually. TCS is maintaining the SPARSH pension system for three years, reducing processing times from 12-18 months to 14 days and implementing the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme. Company is also in discussions with the Controller General of Defence Accounts to develop digital solution for reverse payments in case of overpayments. SPARSH system has benefited 30 lakh pensioners disbursing over Rs 2,82,067 crore. *—PTI*

TotalEnergies' move has no material effect: Adani

Adani says there was no new funding discussions with Total

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Embattled billionaire Gautam Adani's group on Tuesday said French energy giant TotalEnergies' decision to pause new investments in the group will not have any material impact on operations and growth plans as no new funding was under discussion.

TotalEnergies SE had on Monday stated that it was not aware of the corruption investigation its partner Adani group's founder chairman was facing in the US and that it is pausing fresh investments in the conglomerate pending the outcome of the charges.

"We wish to clarify that there is no new financial commitment under discussion with TotalEnergies," Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) said in a stock exchange filing.

It was clarifying on TotalEnergies' statement of 25 November.

TotalEnergies is one of the biggest foreign investors in Adani's business empire and had previously taken stakes in the group's renewable energy venture AGEL and city gas unit Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL).

The group stocks had recovered most of the losses before last week's indictment in a New York court *PHOTO: X*

In a statement on Monday, the French firm had said it learnt of US authorities indicting Gautam Adani and two other executives for allegedly paying USD 265 million bribes to Indian officials to secure solar power supply contracts for AGEL.

Adani group has dismissed the allegations brought in the US court as baseless and has said it would seek all possible legal recourse.

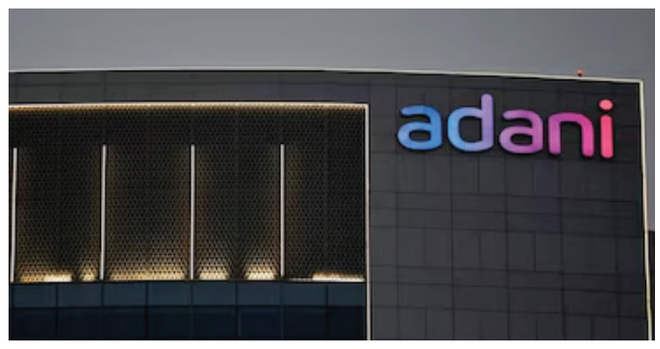
TotalEnergies holds 19.75 per cent stake in AGEL - the renewable energy arm of the Indian group. It also has a 50 per cent stake in three joint venture companies that produce electricity from sunlight and wind with AGEL.

The announcement by Total adds to the woes of Adani. The crisis around the group, which began when Hindenburg released a damning report in January 2023, has also been used by the Opposition parties to attack the government, alleging that the tycoon's rise was primarily because of his association with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The government has rejected the allegation.

The group stocks had recovered most of the losses before last week's indictment in a New York court. *—PTI*

US State Dept silent on Indian Parl turmoil

The US State Department refused to comment on the disruptions in Indian Parliament over the indictment of billionaire Gautam Adani in a US court on charges of bribery. "That is a law enforcement matter," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference on Monday. He was responding to a question about Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi demanding the immediate arrest of Adani. "I would defer to my colleagues to speak to it," Miller said. *—PTI*



Separately, Fitch placed ratings on Adani Energy and Adani Electricity Mumbai on negative watch list *PHOTO: X*

Moody's cuts outlook on Adani firms to -ve

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Ratings agency Moody's said on Tuesday that it has cut the outlook on the ratings of seven Adani entities to 'negative' from 'stable', citing the US indictment of Chairman Gautam Adani and others on alleged bribery charges, while Fitch Ratings put some bonds of the conglomerate on negative watch.

Moody's affirmed the ratings on all seven entities -- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, two limited restricted groups of Adani Green Energy Ltd, Adani Transmission Step-One Ltd, Adani Transportation Restricted group 1 (AESL RG1), Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd and Adani International Container Terminal Pvt Ltd.

The charges and allegations include bribery of Indian government officials, securities and wire fraud; conspiracy to violate the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and obstruct justice; false statements made in annual reports, and false statements made to the US government in relation to its investigation into the group.

Stating that an upgrade of the ratings is unlikely in the near term, given the negative outlook on all seven issuers, Moody's said it could change the rating outlooks to stable if legal proceedings conclude clearly with no material negative credit impact.

Separately, Fitch placed ratings on Adani Energy and Adani Electricity Mumbai on negative watch list following the bribery charges and indictment. *—PTI*

Zomato floats ₹8,500 cr QIP with ₹265.91 price

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Food delivery aggregator Zomato has approved and authorised the opening of its Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), setting the floor price at Rs 265.91 per share.

The company earlier stated it plans to raise Rs 8,500 crore via the QIP offering.

Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal had shared that the proposed fundraise is meant to strengthen its balance sheet.

In a regulatory filing on Monday, the food delivery platform said the Fund Raising Committee of the Board has approved and authorised the opening of the issue.

"We further wish to inform you that the 'relevant date' for the purpose of the issue, in terms of Regulation 171(b)(i) of the SEBI ICDR (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, is 25 November, 2024...," it said.

Accordingly, the floor price, based on the pricing formula as prescribed under Regulation 176(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations is Rs 265.91 per equity share, the filing said.

The issue price will be determined by the company in consultation with the book-running lead manager appointed for the issue, it added. *—PTI*

TRUMP'S TARIFF CONCERNS

Mkt snaps 2-day rally, Sensex falls 105 pts

MUMBAI, 26 NOV

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty snapped the two-day rally and closed lower on Tuesday in line with weak global market trends amid concerns over tariff threats by US President-elect Donald Trump.

In a volatile trade, the 30-share Sensex declined 105.79 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 80,004.06. During the day, it lost 311.18 points or 0.38 per cent to 79,798.67.

The broader NSE Nifty declined by 27.40 points or 0.11 per cent to 24,194.50.

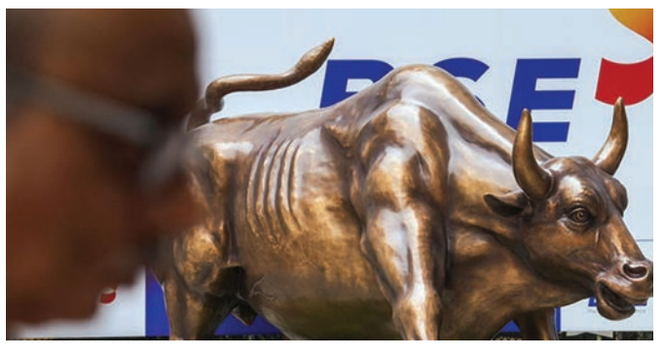
From the 30-share Sensex pack, UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro and Power Grid were among the biggest laggards.

Asian Paints, Infosys, JSW Steel, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries were among the biggest gainers.

Global stock markets declined following concerns over US President-elect Donald Trump's comment that he plans to impose new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China as soon as he takes office on 20 January.

Shares of all Adani group firms ended lower on Tuesday, with Adani Green Energy tumbling 7 per cent, in line with weak trend in equities.

The stock of Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) slumped 7.05 per cent to Rs 899.40 on the BSE. *—PTI*



NSE Nifty declined by 27.40 points or 0.11 per cent to 24,194.50 *PHOTO: PTI*

ICRA ENTERS $5B INDIAN CYBER SECURITY MKT

KOLKATA, 26 NOV

ICRA Analytics Limited (ICRA Analytics), a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICRA Ltd, has announced its foray into the USD 3-5 billion Indian cyber security market through a collaboration with Bitsight, a leading global cyber risk management firm and a Moody's partner.

The Indian cyber security market is estimated to be valued approximately at USD 3-5 billion and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 13-15 per cent over the next five years.

The company is partnering with Bitsight to offer next-generation cyber risk solutions across India, enhancing its risk management platform offerings and providing clients with superior good quality frameworks. *—PTI*

'Gen Z prioritises growth & mentorship, not salary'

MUMBAI, 26 NOV

Around 80 per cent of Gen Z professionals prioritise mentorship and career growth over traditional metrics like salary, reflecting a stronger focus on personal and professional development, a report said on Tuesday.

Gen Zs (people born between the mid-to-late 1990s and early 2010s) adopt a more deliberate approach, seeking clarity and purpose in their careers, unlike those from previous generations for whom financial stability was the primary concern, said a report by jobs and professional networking platform apna.co.

They aim to build skills that naturally lead to rewards, emphasising a future-oriented, strategic mindset instead of short-term gains, said the report.

The report is based on a survey carried out among 10,000 Gen Z professionals during October and November to explore their professional preferences and workplace expectations.

Positive work environment emerged as a critical factor for 74 per cent of respondents, indicating the importance of inclusivity, respect and active engagement, it said.

While people of earlier generations often overlooked mentorship and structured learning, Gen Zs demand continuous feedback, collaboration, and recognition. *—PTI*

Cabinet waives bank guarantee for past spectrum buys

KOLKATA, 26 NOV

The Union Cabinet has waived the requirement to submit bank guarantees for spectrum purchased through auctions held before 2022. The move brings huge relief to debt-ridden Vodafone Idea as it already crossed the timeline to submit Rs 24,746.9 crore bank guarantee for spectrum payment between October 2025 and September 2026.

The decision will also provide relief to Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio who have bought radiowaves through various auctions. The government has already waived the requirement of depositing bank guarantees for spectrum purchased through auctions. *—PTI*

HC stays clean energy agency's bar on Anil Ambani firm

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Delhi High Court has stayed clean energy agency SECI's decision to bar Anil Ambani group firm Reliance Power Ltd from participating in auctions for three years, the company said on Tuesday.

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) had earlier this month barred Reliance Power and its units from participating in auctions for three years over allegations of submitting a fake bank guarantee to support its bid for a recent battery storage tender.

"High Court of Delhi, in its hearing held today, has granted stay on notice of debarment and public notice issued by SECI against the company, including all its subsidiaries except Reliance NU BESS Limited (formerly known as Maharashtra Energy Generation Limited)," the firm said in a stock exchange filing.

Anil Ambani *PHOTO: PTI*

Reliance NU BESS had submitted a bank guarantee purportedly issued by the FirstRand Bank through its branch supposed to be located in Manila City, Manila, the Philippines.

Upon detailed investigation, it was confirmed by the Indian branch of the above Bank that there does not exist any such branch of the bank in the Philippines, prompting SECI to conclude that the BG submitted was a fake document.

On 6 November, SECI announced debarring Reliance Power and Reliance NU BESS from participating in SECI tenders for three years for submitting "fake documents".

Reliance Power said it had challenged the notice of debarment by SECI in the Delhi High Court. *—PTI*

5G subscribers in India to reach 970M by 2030

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

The number of 5G subscribers in India is expected to grow threefold to 970 million, accounting for 74 per cent of the total mobile customer base in the country by 2030, a report by telecom gear firm Ericsson said on Tuesday.

According to Ericsson ConsumerLab research report, simultaneously Generative AI applications are emerging as a key driving factor for 5G performance.

The Ericsson Mobility Report estimates 5G subscriptions in India to reach over 270 million by the end of 2024, accounting for 23 per cent of the total mobile subscriptions in the country.

"5G subscriptions are expected to reach around 970 million by the end of 2030, accounting for 74 per cent of mobile subscriptions," Umang Jindal, Head of Network Solutions, Software and Performance, Southeast Asia, Oceania and India, Ericsson said.

PHOTO: PTI

According to the report, global 5G subscriptions are expected to reach almost 2.3 billion by the end of 2024, amounting to 25 per cent of all global mobile subscriptions and 6.3 billion by 2030.

According to Ericsson ConsumerLab report, the number of smartphone owners who use GenAI apps is expected to increase in the next five years. *—PTI*

1ST GEN ENTREPRENEUR

Essar group co-founder Shashi Ruia dies

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Shashikant Ruia, a first-generation entrepreneur who turned a small construction business into an infrastructure conglomerate, died after a prolonged illness. He was 80.

Shashi Ruia, as he was fondly called, co-founded the metals-to-technology conglomerate Essar with his brother Ravi.

Ruia, who would have turned 81 next month, died in Mumbai around midnight. He had returned from the US, where he was undergoing treatment, about a month back.

"It is with profound grief that we inform of the passing of Shri Shashikant Ruia, Patriarch of the Ruia and Essar Family," the Ruia family said in a statement.

He is survived by his wife Manju and two sons Prashant and Anshuman.

Starting his career in 1965 under the guidance of his father Nand Kishore Ruia, Shashi and his brother Ravi laid the foundation of Essar in 1969 when they bagged a Rs 2.5 crore order from the Madras Port Trust for the construction of an outer breakwater in the port.

Shashi Ruia, as he was fondly called, co-founded the metals-to-technology conglomerate Essar with his brother Ravi *PHOTO: X*

In the early years, Essar focused on construction and engineering projects and built a number of bridges, dams and power plants. In the 1980s, Essar diversified into the energy sector with the acquisition of oil and gas assets.

Today, Essar Global Fund Ltd, which oversees the businesses co-founded by the Ruia brothers, manages assets across sectors such as infrastructure, energy, metals and mining, technology, and services.

According to the Essar Group's website, these portfolio companies generate combined revenues of USD 14 billion.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Ruia a 'towering figure' in his condolence message.

Ruia held several prominent positions in national and industry organisations. He was part of the managing committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and served as chairman of the Indo-US Joint Business Council. He was also the former president of the Indian National Shipowners Association and a member of the Prime Minister's Indo-US CEO Forum and the India-Japan Business Council. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Ayub's 100 helps Pak crush Zimbabwe, level series

BULAWAYO, 26 NOV

Saim Ayub smashed a maiden ODI hundred off 53 balls as Pakistan romped to a 10-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the second one-day international on Tuesday.Ayub, the left-handed opening batter, hit 17 fours and three sixes in his unbeaten 113 off 62 balls and sped Pakistan to 148-0 in 18.2 overs. It was the third-fastest century for Pakistan in ODIs.Pakistan leveled the three-match series and made amends for its stunning 80-run loss on the DLS method in the rain-affected first match on Sunday.Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed had earlier snared 4-33 in his debut ODI and off-spinner Salman Ali Agha chipped in with 3-26 to dismiss Zimbabwe for 145 in 32.3 overs after the home team won the toss and elected to bat.
Pakistan 148 for 0 (Ayub 113*, Shafique 32*) beat Zimbabwe 145 (Myers 33, Williams 31, Abrar 4-33, Salman 3-26) by ten wickets.—*PTI*

Gambhir flies back home for personal emergency

PERTH, 26 NOV

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has flown back home with his family due to a "personal emergency" and is unlikely to rejoin the squad before the second Test against Australia beginning December 6 in Adelaide. The Delhi-based Gambhir will skip India's two-day pink ball warm-up game against Prime Minister's in Canberra starting 30 November. "He left with his family on early Tuesday morning for India. It is an unavoidable personal emergency. He will be back in Adelaide before the start of the second Test match," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.The Indian team will leave for Canberra on Wednesday.—*PTI*

West Indies poised to win 1st Test over Bangladesh

NORTH SOUND, 26 NOV

Bangladesh trailed the West Indies by 224 runs with only three second-inning wickets in hand at stumps on the fourth day of the first cricket test. Set 333 to win, Bangladesh faltered and was 109-7 at stumps on a day in which 17 wickets fell, 14 to fast bowlers.Jaker Ali was 15 not out when Bad Light stopped play for the third day in a row. He shared a 43-run partnership with Mehidy Hasan Miraz (45) heading toward stumps, which briefly fanned Bangladesh's hopes of taking the match well into the final day.—*PTI*

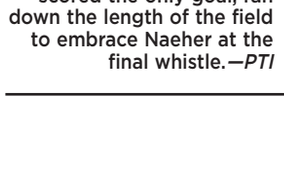


PHOTO: X

Alyssa Naeher retiring from national team

SYDNEY, 26 NOV

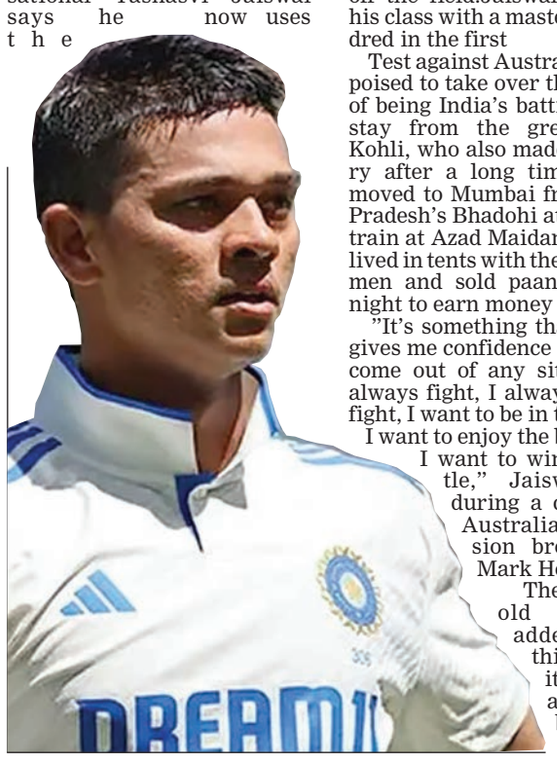
Naeher was on the team's roster for a pair of upcoming matches in Europe but those games will be her last after a full 11 years playing for the United States. Naeher was the starting goalkeeper for the U.S. team that won the Women's World Cup in 2019 and the gold medal at this year's Paris Olympics in France. She's the only U.S. goalkeeper to earn a shutout in both a World Cup and an Olympic final. She made a key one-handed save in stoppage time to preserve the Americans' 1-0 victory over Brazil in the Olympic final. Mallory Swanson, who scored the only goal, ran down the length of the field to embrace Naeher at the final whistle.—*PTI*

My backstory always gives me confidence: Jaiswal

I want to enjoy the battle and I want to win the battle

PERTH, 26 NOV

Brought up in penury, the sensational Yashasvi Jaiswal says he now uses the experience gained from those difficult days as ammunition to conquer the battles on and off the field.Jaiswal stamped his class with a masterful hundred in the first Test against Australia and is poised to take over the mantle of being India's batting mainstay from the great Virat Kohli, who also made a century after a long time.Having moved to Mumbai from Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi at age 11 to train at Azad Maidan, Jaiswal lived in tents with the groundsmen and sold paani puri at night to earn money for food.



"It's something that always gives me confidence that I can come out of any situation. I always fight, I always look to fight, I want to be in the battle, I want to enjoy the battle and I want to win the battle," Jaiswal said during a chat with Australian television broadcaster Mark Howard.

The 22-year-old opener added, "So this is what it gives me and I am blessed that I have this life, that can give me a lot of confidence, learnings about myself, how I can believe in me, and how I can go through with different emotions, different situation in my life.

So I think it's just incredible and I want to thank god for where I am and what I am doing, and I am doing what I love, so I am just happy at the moment. I want to enjoy this with every ball. His journey to fame is a fascinating tale of a strong-willed man making his destiny. His swashbuckling hundred more than made for the first-innings duck at Perth, where the five-match Test series began from 22 November.

Asked about his unusual celebration after getting to the three-figure mark, Jaiswal said, "Yes, it was a way to bring up the hundred. In my mind, I was like, I will do this or that, and then suddenly, something happened, and I was like, oh my god, what should I do?

"So, I was like, okay, I will just celebrate, and I will enjoy this moment. I was blessed, I was grateful, I enjoyed it, and this feeling will stay with me for a long time. —*PTI*

Australia to retain squad

Australia will not make any change to the squad that took a 295-run hammering from India in the opening Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test here but there are some fitness concerns over all-rounder Mitchell Marsh's ability to bowl, coach and selector Andrew McDonald has said. Following the crushing loss, McDonald revealed that the team would land in Adelaide for the day-night second Test beginning 6 December earlier than planned to allow an additional net session."The people in that change-room are the same people that will be in Adelaide," McDonald was quoted as saying by 'cricket.com.au'."It is always a consideration.

PREMIER LEAGUE

West Ham surprise Newcastle with 2-0

West Ham United's Tomas Soucek celebrates after the match with Aaron Wan-Bissaka PHOTO: X / @WESTHAM

NEWCASTLE, 26 NOV

Newcastle's winning run in the English Premier League came to an abrupt end when goals from Thomas Soucek and Aaron Wan-Bissaka gave West Ham a surprise 2-0 win at St. James' Park.

The Hammers rose into 14th place and the pressure on coach Julen Lopetegui was eased. The London club has been inconsistent all season and Monday's win was just its fourth in 12 league games.

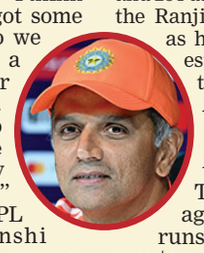
West Ham was worth it in the end but the three points came courtesy of slack defending by the home side. Emerson whipped in an out-swinging corner after 10 minutes and, with Newcastle defenders rooted to the spot, Soucek stole in to nod home the opener. Then eight minutes into the second half, captain Jarrod Bowen found Wan-Bissaka in the penalty box and he was left unchallenged and had time to fire an angled drive past Nick Pope. "The second goal ... if you settle on a lead it can come back to haunt you," Bowen said. Newcastle brought on Harvey, and then Callum Wilson returned from a long-term back injury to make his first appearance of the season, but to no avail. —*PTI*

RR will be good environment for Suryavanshi: Dravid

13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi PHOTO: PTI

PERTH, 26 NOV

Rajasthan Royals head coach Rahul Dravid feels that the franchise would be able to provide 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi with "a good environment" for his upcoming stint in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The eighth standard student from Bihar's Samastipur was picked up by the franchise for Rs. 1.10 crore, making him the youngest cricketer to earn an IPL contract. "I think he's (Suryavanshi) got some really good skills, so we thought it might be a good environment for him to grow in. Vaibhav just came to our trials and we were really happy with what he saw," said Dravid in an IPL video. Suryavanshi recently became the youngest batter to score an international century, having attained the feat in a Youth Test for India Under-19 versus Australia U-19 in Chennai, making 104 in just 62 deliveries. He also made his T20 debut for Bihar in the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy versus Rajasthan on Saturday, managing a 6-ball 13. Having made an impact in the junior circuit, Suryavanshi has yet to play a meaningful knock in First-Class cricket, as he averages only 10 after five matches and has the best score of 41. He hails from Samastipur and debuted at the age of 12 years and 284 days versus Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy last season, as he became the youngest player in the competition's history.



Also, Suryavanshi was only 12 years old when playing in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy for Bihar, aggregating nearly 400 runs in just five engagements. —*PTI*

JUNIOR MEN'S ASIA CUP HOCKEY

The Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team will get its Men's Junior Asia Cup 2024 campaign underway against Thailand in Muscat today PHOTO: HOCKEY INDIA

Confident India take on Thailand

MUSCAT, 26 NOV

A confident India, coached by PR Sreejesh, will start as firm favorites when they take on Thailand in their opening match of the Junior Asia Cup men's hockey tournament here on Wednesday.

India has been placed in Pool A along with Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand.

With 10 teams participating in the event this time, the remaining five teams in Pool B are Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Oman, and China.

India has won this tournament for a record four times, including in 2004, 2008, 2015, and 2023.

They beat arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in the final last year to lift the title.

"Our team has been working hard, and we are confident in our abilities to perform well," skipper Amir said.

"Playing against strong teams like Thailand, Japan, and Korea in Pool A will be challenging, but we are ready to give our best and aim for a top finish. We would like to defend our title and make our country proud once again."

After their campaign opener against Thailand, India will play against Japan on November 28 followed by a clash against Chinese Taipei on November 30.

Their last group-stage match against Korea is scheduled for December 1.

The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals on December 3 while the finals will be played a day later. —*PTI*

Gukesh claws back with draw against Ding Liren

SINGAPORE, 26 NOV

PHOTO: PTI

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh bounced back to draw a largely uneventful second game against defending champion Ding Liren of China in the World Chess Championship here on Tuesday.

Playing with black pieces, Gukesh made a comeback of sorts, having lost to Liren in the opener of the 14-game showdown, on Monday.

It was a good recovery by Gukesh as Liren could do very little with his white pieces and had to share the point"Draw with black in the world championship match is always nice and it's too early, we still have a long match," the Chennai-based GM said in the post-game press conference."I think after I was surprised in the opening, I reacted pretty decently, and I didn't give him any chances.

It was a solid game with black, which is nice," he added. If Monday was the day when nothing he did worked according to plan, Tuesday changed everything for Gukesh as he could not have asked for a better start.Liren did not press at all while Gukesh just followed the basics as the game ended in a draw via repetition soon after black had completed the 23rd turn. —*PTI*

Satwik-Chirag withdraws from SM int'l

LUCKNOW, 26 NOV

India's star men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Tuesday withdrew from the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament.

The former world No. 1 duo, touted as the favorites to win the men's doubles title here, had been sidelined from competitive action post the Paris Olympics due to Satwik's shoulder injury.

They made their comeback at the China Masters Super 750 tournament last week when they reached the semifinals.

However, B Sumeeth Reddy, who has been training the Indian pair ahead of the China Masters and also sat for their matches, informed that Satwik encountered "difficulty" in fully recovering.

"Satwik has just returned from injury. They are playing after a long time. They had a very hectic week in Shenzhen where they reached the semi-finals. It is sometimes difficult to recover completely, so in the best interest, keeping their body in mind and the upcoming season, they decided to withdraw," Reddy told PTI.

Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy PHOTO: PTI

The top seeds were drawn to play against Chen Xu Jun and Guo Ruo Han in the opening round but have given the Chinese pair a walkover. —*PTI*

Bopanna, Nagal to headline PSPB InterUnit Tennis

PUNE, 26 NOV

Rohan Bopanna and Sumit Nagal will be the star attractions at the 43rd PSPB Inter-Unit Lawn Tennis Tournament, scheduled at the Deccan Gymkhana Tennis Courts here from 27-30 November.

The tournament will also feature top Indian players, including Prarthana Thombare, Ankita Raina, Yuki Bhambri, and Vishnu Vardhan.

The tournament will have individual as well as team competitions in men's, women's, and veterans' categories and will be played as per ITF rules. —*PTI*

HERO WORLD CHALLENGE

Tiger to skip tournament after back surgery

NEW DELHI, 26 NOV

Woods said fellow Americans Justin Thomas and Nick Dunlap and Australian Jason Day were the final competitors in the 20-player event, set for December 5-8 at Albany Golf Course.

"I am disappointed that I will not be able to compete this year at the Hero World Challenge, but always look forward to being tournament host and spending the week with @HeroMotoCorp," Woods posted on X.

Woods, a five-time winner of the World Challenge, hosts the annual event but has played just once in the last three years due to health concerns.

He underwent the sixth back operation of his career in September with hopes of easing back spasms and pain he felt during 2024 starts, the most recent of which was at the British Open in July at Royal Troon.

Woods, whose 82 PGA Tour wins are level with Sam Snead for the record, has made only 10 official starts since a 2021 car crash that caused severe leg injuries.

It will be the first time in the event for 20-year-old Dunlap, who became the first amateur in 33 years to win a PGA Tour event when he captured the American Express title in January.

Dunlap then joined the PGA Tour and went on to capture his second title last July at the Barracuda Championship, becoming the first PGA player to win as a pro and an amateur in the same season. —*PTI*

Formula 1 expands grid to add General Motors

LAS VEGAS, 26 NOV

Formula 1 at last said it will expand its grid in 2026 to make room for an American team that is partnered with General Motors.

"As the pinnacle of motorsports, F1 demands boundary-pushing innovation and excellence. It's an honor for General Motors and Cadillac to join the world's premier racing series, and we're committed to competing with passion and integrity to elevate the sport for race fans around the world," GM President Mark Reuss said. "This is a global stage for us to demonstrate GM's engineering expertise and technology leadership at an entirely new level."

The approval ends years of wrangling that launched a U.S. Justice Department investigation into why Colorado-based Liberty Media, the commercial rights holder of F1, would not approve the team initially started by Michael Andretti.

Andretti in September stepped aside from leading his namesake organization, so the 11th team will be called Cadillac F1 and be run by new Andretti Global. —*PTI*